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34 slaughtered in Kashmir



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Seven killed in van collision

By NOAH STREIT and Itim

Seven people were killed and five others were injured yesterday morning in a collision at the Tel Shoket junction, near Beersheba.

In a separate accident in the South yesterday morning, one person was killed and three were injured.

Slightly before 10 a.m. a pick-up truck hit a van that was transporting 10 Palestinian workers from Dhahiriya to Beersheba. After hitting the truck, the van swerved into the oncoming lane and collided head-on with a semi-trailer.

Seven of the van's passengers were killed – four died immediately, two on the way to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital, and one on the operating table. Four of the dead were related.

The police released the names of five of the dead: Ali Jabarin, 22; Tarik Jabarin, 18; Maher Jabarin, 18; Ra'id Jabarin, 19; and Mahmoud Manfia, 16.

The van driver, the passenger in the truck, and the van's three other passengers were lightly to seriously injured. The drivers of the truck and of the semi-trailer were not injured.

Yehiel Navon, head of the National Road Safety Authority, told Israel Radio that the accident occurred because the van driver did not obey the stop sign at the intersection.

"What can the government do against people who don't obey signs?" he asked.

See ACCIDENT, Page 2



Magen David Adom workers assist the victims of yesterday's fatal accident. (Avi Malol, courtesy of Ma'ariv)

New crisis brews in Iraq

Butler: Weapons talks at an impasse

By LEON BARKHO

BAGHDAD (AP) – Talks between Iraq and the UN on dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have reached an impasse and may not resume, the chief UN inspector said yesterday.

Richard Butler, speaking after a second round of talks, said Iraq rejected his proposal for a plan of action to end the inspections that began after the 1991 Gulf War.

"We did not make the progress I have hoped for," Butler told reporters. "I do not know whether we are going to meet tomorrow."

His comments followed harsh criticism by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who accused Butler of "serving the American policy" by trying to prolong punishing sanctions.

Aziz said he rejected Butler's new plan as useless "if you are going to repeat the same tricks and the same games."

The commission, which Butler heads, is responsible for ensuring that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction, as required by UN resolutions that followed the Gulf War.

Until yesterday's impasse, there had been optimism the sides were on the path to ending the inspections. The Security Council has said the sanctions – including a ban on air travel and limits on the sale of oil – will not be lifted until the commission ensures the weapons have been destroyed.

See IRAQ, Page 2

Molcho, Erekat mum after talks

By STEVE RODAN, MOHAMMED NAJIB, JAY BUSHINSKY, and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser Yitzhak Molcho met for several hours last night with chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, but neither would say whether enough progress was made to keep the talks going.

Before the meeting, Palestinian Authority leaders had threatened the session would be the last unless Israel showed up with new proposals.

After the meeting, which was held at an undisclosed location, broke up, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat met with Erekat and other negotiators in Gaza to hear a report, Israel Radio said.

Beforehand Erekat told Reuters: "I don't want to make any pre-judgments. Everything we discuss will be presented to President Arafat and then it will be the decision of the leadership."

The Palestinians entered the meeting saying it would be the last unless Israel commits to hand over 13.1 percent of the West Bank to full Palestinian control.

PA International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath refused to term the meeting a negotiating session. Instead, he described it as a "last attempt to listen" to Israeli ideas.

Shaath said if the PA does not hear new ideas that conform with the US bridging proposals, the Palestinians will turn to the Clinton administration with a demand that it blame Israel for the failure of the talks. "If this fails, we will tell the US that not only did we go the extra mile, as you wanted," Shaath said. "We have gone an extra 10 miles. We will then want pressure [on Israel] from the US, Europe, and the Arabs."

PA officials said Erekat demanded that Israel present its withdrawal map. This would include where Israel would want to establish nature reserves on three percent of the West Bank from which it would withdraw.

Israeli officials have suggested that the reserves would be set up in the Judean desert east of Bethlehem.

See TALKS, Page 2

PM forms economic council

By DAVID HARRIS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday announced the creation of a national economic council, which will tackle economic problems, including rapidly increasing unemployment.

The council will be comprised of Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, and Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper.

The council will meet for the first time this week. Netanyahu is expected to introduce a series of proposals for fighting unemployment during next week's cabinet meeting.

Edelstein calls for national social council, Page 13

Treasury and central bank spokesmen expressed surprise when they heard the announcement, each saying it was the first he knew of the idea.

Treasury officials yesterday scoffed at the idea of "another economic council, after all the other failed ones."

"It's too late for them to do anything this year anyway, because next week we're handing the government our budget proposals," one said.

On the other hand, one leading government economist said that, if anything, the council is a slight against Neeman, who until now was really the only minister in charge of macroeconomic policies.

See COUNCIL, Page 4

Another debating club

ANALYSIS

By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Back in that prehistoric Israel where governments routinely printed money, fixed interest rates, decreed exchange rates, and subsidized milk, bread, and cooking oil, there was a time-honored economic institution called "the package deal."

Whenever prices soared, jobs dwindled, and deficits yawned, the heads of the Treasury, Histadrut, and Manufacturers Association would meet amid much-heralded leaks of a "new economic plan."

Each of the three, needless to say, thought the two others were responsible for "the crisis," but none questioned the underlying assumption that, once in agreement, they could shake heaven and earth.

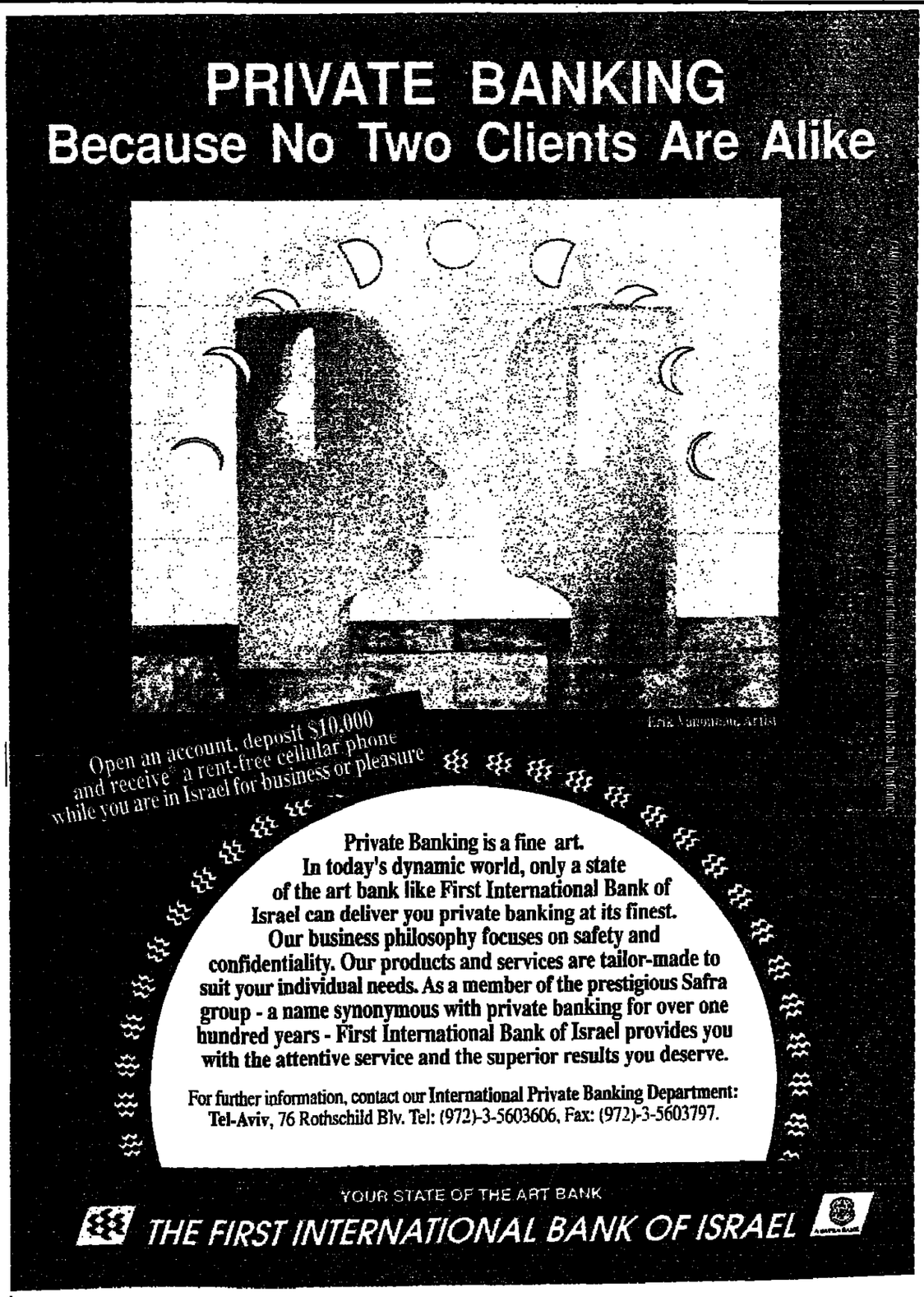
In reality, all they could do was concoct a uniquely Israeli witches' brew, including yet another administrative currency devaluation and salary indexation formula, as well as an occasional tax break, investment grant, or import duty.

Economically this would amount to little more than aspirin, but politically it did wonders:

The politicians deluded themselves that they mattered, and the public that it had economic leaders.

It all came to an end in 1985, when Histadrut secretary-general Yisrael Kessar was forced to accept – on behalf of the workers – a sharp pay cut and job freeze, lest the hyperinflation which his unions helped foment send the entire Zionist enterprise down the drain.

See CLUB, Page 4



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NEWS
in brief

Police question Pninat Yanai

Pninat Yanai was questioned at the National Fraud Squad's Bat Yam office for several hours yesterday about the controversy surrounding the trial of Nahum Manbar. Police are expected to continue questioning her over the next few days about her contacts with Manbar's wife Francine; attorney Amnon Zichroni, who fired her from Manbar's defense team; and Judge Amnon Strashnov, who presided over the trial in which Manbar was found guilty of helping Iran acquire weapons. *Itim*

Doctors remove fluid from Fahd's abdomen

Saudi King Fahd is "in very good health" after doctors extracted fluid from his abdomen under local anesthetic to treat an infection, a statement from the royal palace said yesterday.

The statement, which was carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, said the procedure did not require surgery on the king, who is in his mid-70s. It said the fluid resulted from an infection in part of the colon.

King Fahd, who was admitted to hospital for tests on Sunday for the second time in less than six months, would remain in the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh for several more days, the statement said. *Reuters*

Three illegal houses destroyed near Tulkarm

The Civil Administration yesterday destroyed three houses in the village of Burkin, near Tulkarm, that were built without permits. Palestinian sources said that the Civil Administration also issued stop orders to several Burkin residents who were building homes illegally. *Itim*

Cabinet seeking to legalize pirate radio

The cabinet yesterday decided to seek a legislative basis for enabling pirate radio stations, such as Arutz 7, to continue broadcasting. To that end it formed a ministerial committee to be headed by Minister of Education Yitzhak Levy, with Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Communications Minister Limor Livnat as members. Its purpose will be "to prepare, for cabinet approval, a proposal for legislative amendments with respect to national and regional radio broadcasts," the cabinet communique said.

The ultimate objective would be "to give expression to the cultural diversity of Israeli society and to the various perspectives espoused by the public." *Jay Bushinsky*

Britain seeks apology from Naveh

British Ambassador David Manning yesterday requested that cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, in his role as chairman of the forum that monitors worldwide antisemitism, retract his statement that there has been an increase in antisemitism in Britain recently. The move followed a June 1 press release by the Government Press Office saying there had been a recent "series of attacks on Jews in the street especially in Britain."

In a letter to Naveh, Manning said he had consulted with the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which had provided the information on antisemitism to the forum. Manning said the board told him it had not reported an increase in antisemitic incidents, but rather a decrease. *Itim*

Teachers Union head meets Arafat

Teachers Union secretary-general Avraham Ben-Shabbat met yesterday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to discuss cooperation between his union and Palestinian teachers associations.

"The personal encounters and dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian teachers is a bridge to understanding and tolerance between the two nations," Ben-Shabbat said.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Kiryat Arba suspects allowed counsel

By AMY KLEIN

The two minors arrested last week on suspicion they had set fire to Hebron Arabs' property and were part of a Jewish underground group were allowed to see their attorney yesterday, after having been denied legal counsel for a week.

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court extended the remand of one of them for a day, and of the other for two days. The judge said that, based on the classified information he had seen, there was a basis for the allegations against them.

The two youths suspected of the same crimes who were arrested Sunday also had remand hearings yesterday. One was released to house arrest, and the other had his remand extended for a day.

One of the minors is cooperating with the General Security Service investigators, Channel 1 reported.

Police suspect the teenagers of setting fire to eight cars, two fields and two watermelon stands belonging to Arabs in Hebron. The crimes took place during May and June.

Netanel Nir, the 19-year-old "Hebron horseman" who is awaiting trial along with another minor for allegedly vandalizing Arab property, originally had been a suspect in the arsons.

Police have said that all the youths were avenging the murder of 28-year-old Dov Driben, who was killed by Palestinians on April 19 over a land dispute in Ma'on in the north Hebron hills.

The Driben family knows all the teenagers arrested during the past month.

Nir took the horse from the Driben ranch, and stayed at their house the weekend the vandalism he is charged with occurred.

The four Kiryat Arba boys accused of involvement in an illegal underground spent time with the family and at the ranch.

But Dov Driben's father, Eddie, thinks the crimes – if they even occurred – had nothing to do with his son's death.

"It's stupid and pathetic to say that this is revenge for Dov's murder," said Eddie, a cowboy who immigrated from Wyoming over 50 years ago, and now raises sheep and horses.

"I have nothing against Arabs who didn't kill my son. I have a family relationship with the Arabs," he said, as a number of Arabs meeting at his house could be heard in the background. "The boys know about this relationship. I take them to the Arabs' houses, we all ride horses together."

Eddie believes that if the youths did anything, it was in self-defense, and that connecting it to his son's death is a "cheap publicity stunt."

"Police are afraid to look an Arab in the eye, but then they accuse Jewish boys of being part of an underground," he said. "They think they're tough trying to break the boys by not allowing them to see their lawyer.

"We don't play games, throwing rocks at Hebronites, riding horses. There was no revenge here," he said. "If I wanted to take revenge, I'd find the Arabs and kill them myself."

Driben insisted, however, that he was waiting for police and the GSS to fulfill their promise to him – to "take care" of his son's killers.



'Free our sons'

Palestinian women yesterday chant slogans and hold up pictures of relatives imprisoned in Israel during a protest march that ended in front of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Gaza office. The protesters demanded that Arafat secure their release. (Reuters)

Labor delegation slams AIPAC

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON – The Labor Party yesterday resumed its attack on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, calling on the leading pro-Israel lobbying group here to explain several recent actions, most notably its role in recruiting 81 senators to urge President Bill Clinton in a letter in April not to publicly present an American plan for breaking the peace process stalemate.

"We put things on the table," MK Efraim Sneh said in an interview, at the start of a four-day Washington visit of a Labor delegation headed by chairman Ehud Barak.

"We said you can't present certain views on sensitive issues on which there is a disagreement in Israel – that they [AIPAC] can't lead such actions as the letter of 81. We gave this as an example."

Sneh described himself and MK Yossi Beilin as the leading articulators of this view during the session with AIPAC.

Another participant confirmed the account, adding that AIPAC was "much more defensive" toward Beilin for an advertisement be published in *The Washington Times* three months ago criticizing the organization for a "dangerous deviation" from its mission in arranging for the congressional letter and for leaving itself "open to the accusation that it has become an obstacle to peace."

Several officials of the organization initially refused to discuss the substance of the meeting. But upon learning of the delegation's comments, an AIPAC official said that AIPAC was disappointed that their confidentiality agreement with Barak's group was broken and that the organization was caught "in their political crossfire."

The official called the session "an excellent meeting" in which Barak discussed his vision of peace and his concerns over the threats from Iran and Iraq, and was in turned briefed by AIPAC on the congressional agenda.

Earlier in the day, Barak, Sneh, Beilin, and MK Shlomo Ben-Ami met with Ambassador Zalman Shoval, who offered to have embassy officials accompany the delegation on its various Washington meetings. The offer was accepted.

Opposition dismisses PM's economic council

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The Labor Party yesterday rejected Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's initiative to form an economic council to deal with unemployment, calling it "another public relations trick and deception on Netanyahu's part."

The council is to be headed by Netanyahu and consist of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and the president of the economic organizations' coordination bureau.

Former finance minister MK Avraham Shohat (Labor), said the unemployment and economic slump were caused by this government, which stalled the peace process and has transferred billions of shekels to the settlements in the territories and the haredi yeshivot.

The road to improving the economy goes via the peace process, Shohat said.

"The government must make peace and create stability and a calm, bright horizon to enable growth and investments. It cannot continue giving unlimited funds to haredim and settlers, who give nothing back to the economy, and cut off the budget for infrastructure and research and development, which create new jobs," he said.

The head of the Knesset's social caucus, MK Maxim Levy of Gesher, called the new economic council "nonsense" and said councils and forums to "solve" unemployment have been set up before and did absolutely nothing.

"Everyone remembers the directors-general committee set up to deal with Ofakim. It's all nonsense. A government that wants to take care of the development towns must implement the Development Towns Law, which will give equal education to the younger children and free higher education to the youth," Levy said.

"The prime minister has no place talking high and mighty about ethnic frustration. It is he and his government who for the past two-and-a-half years have dwindled the budgets of the development towns and brought American tactics of privatization and closing down plants, which have led to 250,000 unemployed people in Israel," Levy said.

MK Haim Oron (Meretz), scoffed at the economic council idea and said Netanyahu has formed an "economic kitchenette," in the style of the security cabinet.

"But the broth is all spoilt, the casserole burnt. The ingredients must be changed, but most of all, the cooks must be replaced," Oron said.

Puppeteer Shari Lewis dies at 65

LOS ANGELES (AP) – Puppeteer Shari Lewis, the children's entertainer who charmed youngsters for decades with furry sidekicks Lamb Chop, Charlie Horse, and Hush Puppy, died of cancer, her publicist said yesterday. She was 65.

Lewis, diagnosed with uterine cancer in June, was undergoing chemotherapy treatment when she developed pneumonia and died Sunday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, spokeswoman Maggie Begley said.

The Emmy Award-winning ventriloquist began cancer treatments six weeks ago and cut short production in Vancouver on her latest PBS children's series, *The Charlie Horse Music Pizza*.

Lewis won 12 Emmys, including five for her last PBS series, *Lamb Chop's Play-Along*.

The Charlie Horse Music Pizza was billed by the entertainer as an educational "Cheers" for children that focused on music. The show premiered January 5 on PBS.

IRAQ
Continued from Page 1

Aziz accused Butler's team of ignoring Iraq's progress in eliminating its weaponry and instead focusing on "minor issues which make no sense from the angle of disarmament."

"Since this is the wish of the American administration to perpetuate the situation, to prolong the current situation, to keep the sanctions on the people of Iraq... as long as this is the American wish, you are serving the American policy," he said.

Neither Aziz nor Butler gave specifics on what was discussed yesterday, but the "blueprint" Butler presented the Iraqis during his last visit in June calls for further disclosures about the country's missile program and biological and chemical weaponry.

Aziz repeated Iraq's earlier contention that Iraq "does not have any weapons of mass destruction."

Last month, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein said the sanctions must be lifted this year – the first time he has set a deadline.

Iraq says the sanctions have caused widespread poverty, malnutrition, and illnesses among its 22 million people.

Butler was scheduled to remain in Baghdad until tomorrow.

Iraq's refusal to open presidential sites to UN inspectors earlier this year brought the region to the brink of war.

The US and Britain sent warplanes and ships to the gulf, threatening military action to force Iraq to cooperate.

The crisis was defused in February through an agreement negotiated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

TALKS
Continued from Page 1

Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi, meanwhile, gave Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani a list of 120 prisoners the PA wants Israel to release. None have blood on their hands, Channel 1 said.

Kahalani reportedly relayed the list to the Prisons Service, and further discussions of the issue were postponed until today.

Netanyahu hedged yesterday about the categories and scope of a possible prisoner release, but confirmed it is under consideration.

He said the move would depend largely on the outcome of the current round of negotiations.

"This comes under the rubric of the negotiations and agreements," he said at a joint news conference with Romanian Prime Minister Radu Vasile, "and we have not made any decisions."

Netanyahu refrained from specifying whether 100 or 120 Palestinians might be set free.

"Obviously we have very strict policies about not releasing anyone with blood on his hands or members of Hamas. But within the categories that remain we will look into this matter and see how the negotiations proceed and make our decisions accordingly."

Asked about the PA's threat to stop negotiating with Israel, Netanyahu replied: "We suggest that [the PA] stop using the language of ultimatum. The negotiations are advancing with the good will of Israel and, I hope, of the Palestinians."

Netanyahu said proposals by both sides are under discussion. "Since there is a practical chance for progress, I see no sense in creating artificial pressure which won't influence us." He advised the PA "to engage in less polemics for foreign consumption."

An independent Palestinian source contended that Egypt, particularly Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, has been encouraging the PA to take a harder line and even to halt the dialogue with Israel. He attributed this to Moussa's pique over Israel's role in promoting the regional economic conference held in Qatar last year, an event Egypt opposed.

Several members of the PA cabinet were said to oppose Egypt's alleged attempt to "dominate" Palestinian diplomacy.

Egypt's attitude toward the current stage of the peace process is based on its assessment that Netanyahu's political longevity is limited.

"Jordan disagrees with Egypt on this point," the source said.

ACCIDENT
Continued from Page 1

However, eyewitness Mohammed Atauna told Israel Radio that "as far as I could see the drivers were driving properly... and it is the lack of traffic lights at the intersection that caused the accident."

However, Police Southern District spokesman Dep.-Cmdr. Moshe Ben-Hamo said that "the cause of the collision was the [van] not braking as it went through the intersection."

Channel 1 added that the van may have been trying to avoid a Border Police roadblock in the area.

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

Our sincerest condolences to **Dr. RJ Shiner and his family,** on the death of his mother

Prof. M. SHINER

Your friends at the Lung Function Institute, Pulmonary Institute, Tel Hashomer Hospital

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our member

JOSEPH (Joe) HALAMISH

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, August 4, 1998 (12 Av 5758), meeting at the entrance to the kibbutz cemetery at 5 p.m.

The family and Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

EUDICE FABIAN ע"ה

Deeply mourned by her husband Geoff, children Eleanor and Jonathan, granddaughters, and a huge circle of relatives and friends

The funeral will take place today, August 4, 1998, at Shikun Vatikim, Netanya, at 1 p.m.

We mourn the passing of

AVIVA (May) Even-Paz

Our deepest condolences to our member **Zvi and his family.**

Shikun Nayot, Jerusalem

Our beloved, woman of letters, researcher and lecturer

Prof. – Dr. PNINA NAVE – LEVINSON

is gone.

The funeral will take place today, August 4, 1998, at Kibbutz Holata at 11:30 a.m.

Shiva starting from Wednesday, August 5, at 5 p.m. at her home, 30 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem.

The Family

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126 Days as a Hostage by Choice

Fr. Juan Julio Wicht, S.J.

Opening Remarks:
Hon. Jaime Stiglich, Ambassador of Peru
Prof. Daniel Schydlowsky, Governor, B'nai B'rith World Center
Tuesday, August 4, 1998 at 8 p.m.
Beit Shalom, 20 Ahad Ha'am St., Jerusalem
By reservation (places limited): Tel. 02-625-1743, Fax. 02-625-8097

On December 17, 1996, Fr. Juan Julio Wicht, a Jesuit Priest from Lima, Peru, was taken hostage, along with 500 others, by Tupac Amaru terrorists at the residence of the Japanese ambassador to Peru. Though the terrorists sought to release him several times, Fr. Wicht insisted on staying to serve the spiritual and emotional needs of the hostages until the end of the siege by military action.

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Council may seek limits on R. Hovav

By LIAT COLLINS

David Milgrom, head of the Ramat Hovav Industrial Area Council, said yesterday he is considering seeking a partial, interim closure order against the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site.

Milgrom was speaking at a council meeting following Sunday night's fire.

The council passed several resolutions, including establishing a team to examine whether the waste site had deviated from its operating license. The team will present its conclusions within a week. If the Ramat Hovav Environmental Services Co. is found to have deviated from its license, the council will consider getting an administrative closure order for the site.

The council is also examining with local and foreign experts possible amendments to the licensing requirements.

The Knesset Interior and Environment Committee, meanwhile, is expected to hold a meeting today on the fire.

Although there were no injuries and the Environment Ministry reported no unusual pollution levels following the fire in the storage area for spent lithium batteries, all the related bodies – including the ministry, the site management, and environmental groups – are warning that the huge quantities of accumulated waste at the site make it likely another more serious accident could happen.

"The situation is very problematic," said Environment Ministry Director General Nehama Ronen. "For 30 years, toxic materials were sent there without any supervision and treatment. What is being done in recent years is to put things in order and try to ascertain what materials are buried there, because even now we don't know what is there."

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan has appointed a committee of inquiry which is scheduled to file its report in a month.

Eitan yesterday called for the capacity of the newly installed incinerator to be increased and called on the government to allow the expansion of the storage area at the site, so that barrels would not be stored in layers. He said the Israel Lands Administration is refusing to grant the site the extra land.

He said improvement plans for the site exist, but a lack of funds and bureaucratic delays are preventing their implementation.

From the initial investigations, it seems Sunday's incident was caused when containers holding lithium fell, spilling some of the oil used to protect the material against sudden movements and penetration of water, which cause a volatile reaction.

When the workers began gathering the containers, one caught fire. Although it was isolated, before it could be completely covered with sand to extinguish it, it exploded, causing other nearby barrels to ignite.

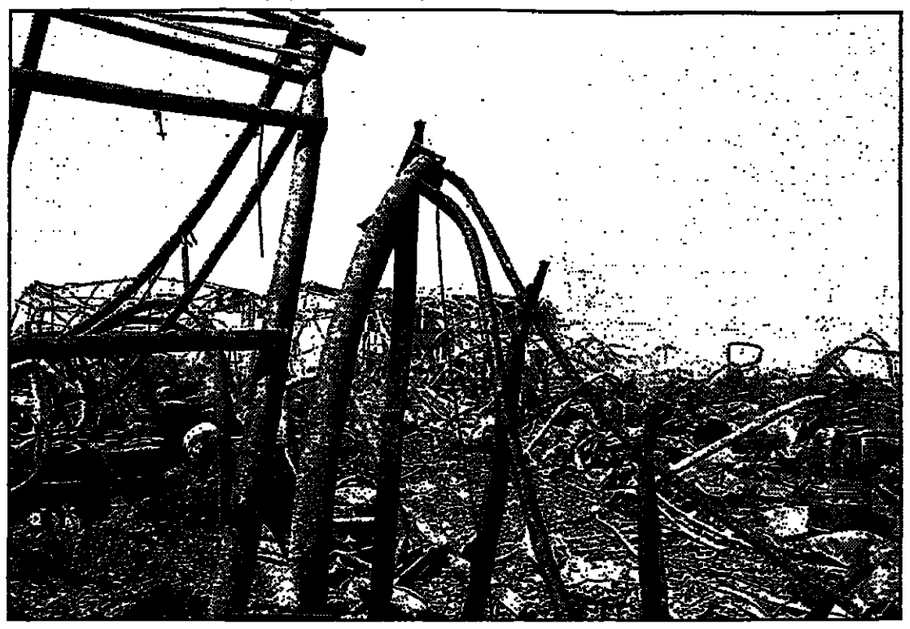
Mobile monitoring stations placed in nearby communities indicated no unusual pollution level as a result of the incident.

At the cabinet meeting yesterday, Eitan also warned of a potential future disaster point at the Beersheba train station, which handles huge quantities of hazardous materials which arrive by rail.

The ministry is also acting to reduce the amounts of hazardous waste which needs to be handled by encouraging on-site treatment and other methods, he said.

Ronen said a budget of NIS 31 million is required to clean up and make the site safe.

Shmuel Riffman, head of the Ramat Hanegev Council, accused the site of mismanagement and not reporting incidents.



The lithium battery storage site at Ramat Hovav as it appeared yesterday, after Sunday night's fire had burned itself out. (Tsafrir Abayov)

Local Beduin to get emergency beepers

By LIAT COLLINS

The heads of the Beduin clans in the area near the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site will be given pagers which can be used to alert them of any future incident and the measures to be taken, according to Moshe Dayan, spokesman for the Ramat Hovav Industrial Area Council.

He said yesterday that the problem of locating the Beduin who are spread out over a large area is one of the topics which has arisen following Sunday's fire.

Dayan denied news reports that there are no evacuation plans and said the plans are set out in a booklet of emergency regulations.

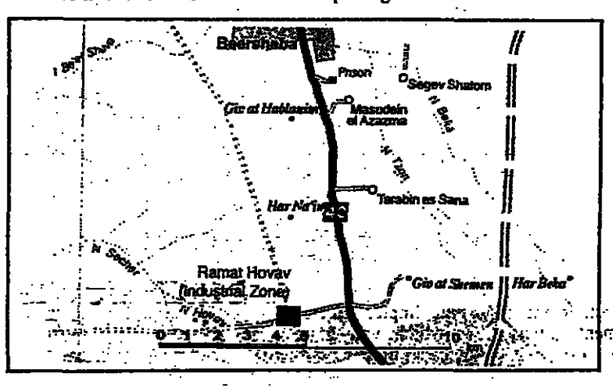
The police is responsible for operating an evacuation plan, but unlike the nearby Jewish settlements, in which patrol cars with amplifiers can inform the residents in the event of an emergency, the Beduin are too dispersed to keep informed this way.

"On Sunday, there was no need to evacuate the area because the fire was in the section where the lithium batteries are stored and the material is not dangerous. The main fear was that the fire would spread," Dayan said.

The chairman of the Azasmeh Beduin settlement, Lebad Abu-Affash, said the Beduin had run away to nearby hilltops without any protection and without instructions. He also said the Beduin near the site suffer from serious health problems, including a high rate of miscarriage, birth defects, respiratory problems, and cancer.

Dayan rejected a connection between the Beduin health problems and Ramat Hovav. He said the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry carries out ongoing checks of the health of workers at the site and found no health problems above normal among those who have been daily at the site for years.

However, the Ramat Hovav Industrial Area Council and the Health and Environment ministries are scheduled to start a preplanned epidemiological survey of the health of local residents in the near future. This survey is the third in a series of monitoring programs after a hydrological report and an air quality report, both of which found faults.



'A ticking time bomb'

By LIAT COLLINS

The country's major environmental groups have been warning for several years of the dangers of the Ramat Hovav hazardous waste site, using words like "a ticking time bomb" to describe the situation.

"[Sunday] night's incident, when substances at the site exploded causing a huge fire, shows just one of the dangers," said Alona Appel, spokeswoman for the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (Adam, Teva V'Din).

"Another risk, the long-term exposure to high levels of hazardous materials, continues and might even be increased following the fire."

She said an IUED survey last year showed a number of communities were exposed to high risks. The survey indicated this includes those living at a 10km. to 15km. distance, which covers the outlying neighborhoods of Beersheba.

The main problem is air pollution, she said.

"The incident [Sunday] indicates severe failings. From our point of view, all those involved are responsible: the Environment Ministry, the Ramat Hovav Industrial Council and the Ramat Hovav Environmental Services Company. What can they tell residents threatened by the site?" she asked.

She also noted that estimates are that most toxic waste does not even reach the toxic waste site and is untreated, comprising a public health hazard.

Ofer Ben-Dov of Greenpeace Mediterranean stressed the need for the site to be given "national priority."

Environment Ministry spokesman Yiftah Kramer noted, however, that Greenpeace was among the leading opponents of establishing an incinerator at Ramat Hovav, advocating "clean production methods" instead.

"This is Utopian, unrealistic and found nowhere in the world. And the continued burial of waste at the site until the clean production method is found, if at all, will mean the continued threat of dangerous incidents at Ramat Hovav," Kramer said.

He said the site suffered from years of neglect in the past, but the ministry and Ramat Hovav Environmental Services Company, which operates the site, have made a concentrated effort to clean up the site and reduce the risks.

A troubled history

By LIAT COLLINS

Ramat Hovav, some 12 kilometers south of Beersheba, was chosen as a national disposal site for hazardous waste in 1977 and began operating two years later.

Until then, companies improvised their own methods of hazardous waste disposal, from storage on their own grounds to dumping the materials in municipal dumps, sewers, rivers and abandoned quarries.

However, according to an Environment Ministry publication, although the Ramat Hovav site was envisaged as a treatment plant and not merely a dumping ground, between 1979 and 1987, waste received at the site was "haphazardly received, stored and treated."

In addition to the waste site, the area includes an industrial park that includes factories dealing with hazardous materials.

In 1988, operation of the waste site was transferred from a private contractor to the newly established Ramat Hovav Environmental Services Company, a government company. The Environment Ministry was established in December 1988 and assumed responsibility for the company.

Facilities for the neutralization of heavy metals, cyanides, acids and inorganic material began operating in 1988, but no satisfactory solution was found for the fuel industry's sludge or the ever-increasing quantities of organic substances.

The quantities of hazardous wastes which reach the site have increased from 7,000 tons in 1985 to 43,000 tons in 1997.

In recent years, serious problems relating to both the location and operation of the site have emerged, including a number of leaks through the cracks in the rocks in the direction of the southern part of the coastal aquifer.

There have been 10 major incidents at the site in as many years. Some of the incidents last year include a fire involving pesticides and two leaks of poisonous gases within a 12-hour period.

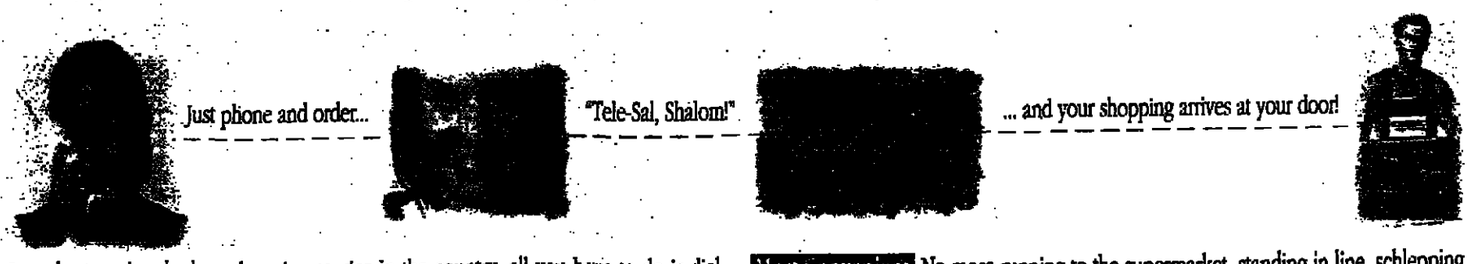
Although plans to close the site have often been mooted, this is not a real possibility in the coming years according to Environment Ministry officials.



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Palestinian dig unearths Canaanite homes

By MONA ELTAHAWY

Palestinian archeologists, working on their first dig in Palestinian Authority-controlled areas, yesterday said they had found the remains of Canaanite homes which they believed dated from around 3000 BCE.

The archeologists said the homes, at the site of the Canaanite city of Tel Sofer west of Nablus, would help Palestinians formulate their own version of the area's ancient history.

"Their [Israeli] research stopped whenever they reached anything dating to the Israelite era in this region," said Jalal Kazzouh, head of the archeology department at Nablus's an-Najah University.

Kazzouh said the excavations, which began three weeks ago, had unearthed what could be the remains of two houses that were part of the city of Tel Sofer, which lay in the western part of what is now Nablus.

"These findings date to 3000 BC," he said.

The archeologist said pottery fragments from the site could date back to the Bronze, Byzantine and Islamic eras. The fragments must be examined by specialists to try to set an exact time period.

Some Palestinians trace their ancestry to the Canaanites, who inhabited the area before the Israelites. They say discoveries from that age are proof of their historical rights in the area.

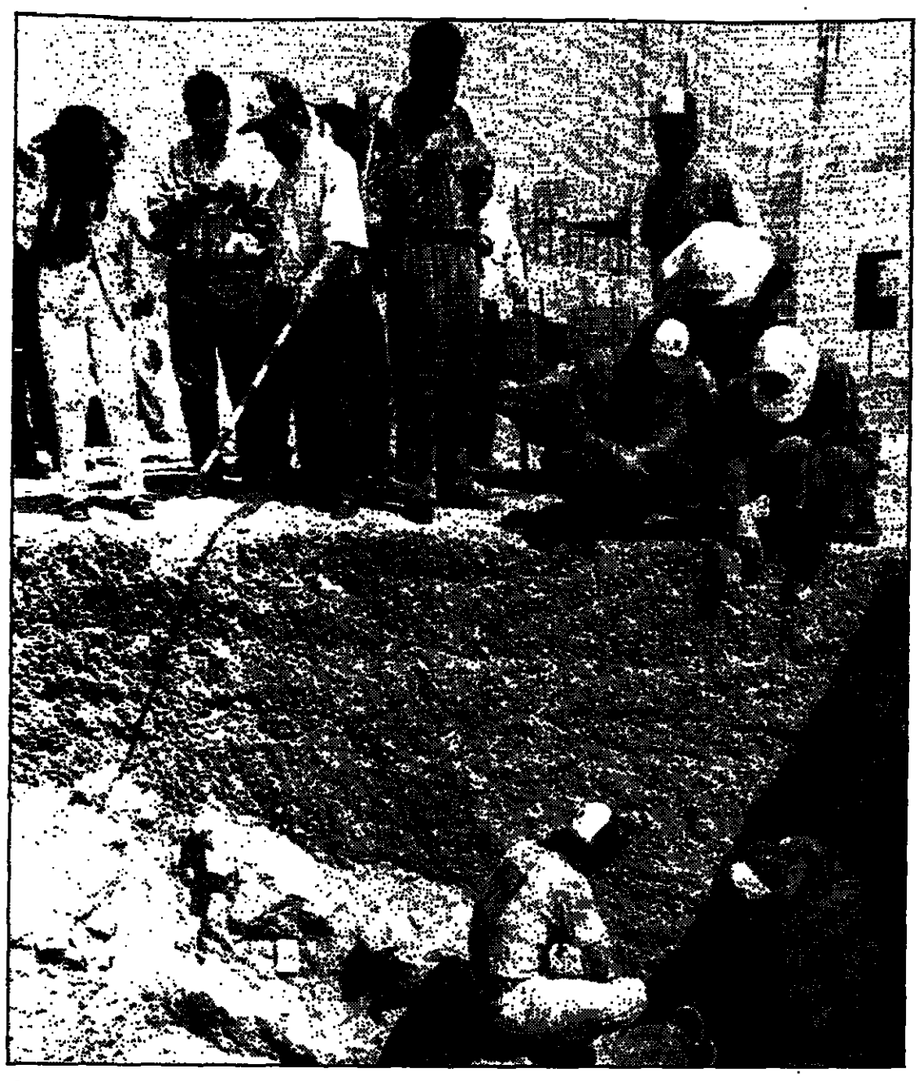
"It establishes our roots to this land. We're saying these are our ancestors and these are our roots. It is the biggest challenge to others [Israelis] who say they own this land and that they have a historical right to it," Kazzouh said.

Khairy Ouda, dean of al-Najah University's College of Arts, said the dig is the first step taken by the nascent Palestinian archeology movement. (Reuters)

Amy Klein adds:

Antiquities Authority head Amir Drori declined to comment on the report last night, saying West Bank digs were beyond the realm of his responsibility.

The Civil Administration's officer for archaeology could not be reached for a comment.



Jalal Kazzouh (center) points to a new archeological discovery at a tel near Nablus, as workers continue excavating the site yesterday. (Reuters)

Palestinian's home demolished for 2nd time

By AMY KLEIN

The Shawamreh family home in in Anata, northeast of Jerusalem, was demolished again yesterday, after volunteers began to rebuild it over the weekend. The house was destroyed three weeks ago because it was built without a permit.

Volunteers from the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolition helped the Shawamreh family rebuild their house. By yesterday, the group had completed the roof and foundation.

At 6 a.m. yesterday morning, the Civil Administration and the IDF demolished the structure.

"We heard the noise of the bulldozer and saw the house surrounded by soldiers," said Saleem Shawamreh, father of six. "They destroyed the house and all the trees around it."

Shawamreh said he applied to the Civil Administration for a building permit four times, before deciding to build without one in 1994. The High Court of Justice rejected the family's petition.

The house was demolished on July 10 amid confrontations between protesters and soldiers. A young boy suffered kidney injuries from stun grenades, Palestinians said.

"The Civil Administration enforces the law against Jews and Palestinians," said spokesman Peter Lerner.

The administration destroyed 300 Palestinian homes over the last two years, and only a small number of Jewish homes, Lerner said, "because relatively few Jews build illegally."

In the past two years the Civil Administration also granted Palestinians 1,200 "retroactive" building permits – legalizing homes that were built without permits, Lerner said.

"So what if they did grant 1,200 permits?" said Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolition – a coalition of groups including Gush Shalom, Rabbis for Human Rights, Peace Now, and Bat Shalom. "They also displaced about 10,000 Palestinians over the last 10 years."

"This is politics under the guise of planning," said Halper. "Israel's planning policies intend to confine Palestinians to crowded and discontinuous enclaves on the West Bank."

Shawamreh blames the government for his predicament. "We'll probably try to rebuild my house again, with the help of the villagers and the Israelis. I don't know what else to do."

In addition to rebuilding, Halper said the coalition intends to take legal action. He thinks the Civil Administration acted illegally because it did not receive a second demolition order yesterday.

The administration believes the original demolition order from July 10 applies.

Halper will also complain to

PA prepares for cabinet reshuffle

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The Palestinian Authority is preparing to announce a cabinet shakeup that could affect up to 10 ministers by the weekend, PA sources said yesterday.

The new cabinet would include several prominent Palestinians, including the president of Al Quds University, Sari Nusseibeh, they said.

"The chairman [Yasser Arafat] has heard from all parties and finally he will form a new cabinet that will be ratified by the PLO Executive Committee before it is presented to the Palestinian Legislative Council," a source close to Arafat said.

The source said Arafat will present his new cabinet in an emergency session of the PLC on Thursday.

The PA-aligned daily said yesterday that the cabinet shakeup might be announced tomorrow and would include eight new ministers. The newspaper said the names were being approved by the Palestinian leadership, which includes the PLO and Fatah movement.

PLC member Hatem Abdul Khader went further, saying that the shakeup would affect 10 ministries.

He said he did not know the names of the new ministers, but expected an announcement to be made tomorrow or Thursday.

"The names are not important at this point," he said. "We will see if the changes are agreeable."

Seven of the 24 ministers in Arafat's cabinet need to be replaced because of either death or resignations. This includes the ministers of tourism and religion.

PA officials said Arafat had been delaying the reshuffle until after Israel begins to withdraw from territory in the West Bank as part of the second further redeployment. But aides have argued that changes in the cabinet would bolster the sagging popularity of the PA.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that in addition to Nusseibeh, PLC member Saedi Kruntz will join the cabinet to replace Industry Minister Bashir Barghouti. Barghouti is said to be extremely ill. Hikmat Zeid Kilani is slated to replace Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh.

PLC member and Arafat adviser Nabil Amr and PLC member Salah Taamari, from Bethlehem, are to form a parliamentary ministry responsible for coordinating relations between the PLC and Arafat's executive.

Laser reflector helps satellite pinpoint its location

By JUDY SIEGEL

The laser retro-reflector installed on board the Technion satellite, which makes possible the exact identification of its location, is functioning well, the Technion reported yesterday.

The Gurwin II Techsat satellite was launched from Kazakhstan nearly three weeks ago, after several delays and the loss of a previous satellite when the Russian missile that launched it exploded.

The retro-reflector, a small, lightweight device that needs no electricity, makes it possible to automatically operate the satellite's systems.

Yesterday, the first-ever unrestricted photos sent from the satellite were presented at a press conference in Haifa. Real-time photos, received by a ground station as Gurwin II passes over Israel, are also being shown at the Science Ministry pavilion at the jubilee exhibition in Tel Aviv, along with an exact model of the Israeli-designed-and-built satellite.

According to Technion officials, information on the satellite's location has been supplied over the Internet by the US organization NORAD, which uses radar to track all satellites orbiting the earth.

However, after seeing the NORAD data, Technion researchers feared they weren't accurate and that their own satellite was being mistaken for another satellite.

The Technion's calculations regarding Gurwin II's rise and descent didn't coordinate with data from the Americans, but there was no way to verify if there was a problem.

But a few days ago, the Technion received a fax from the Russian Space Agency's research institute for precision instrument making, which also tracks satellites.

This institute was assigned by Australia to design and manufacture the WESTPAC satellite, which blasted off with the Kazakh launcher alongside Gurwin II and whose sole function is an experimental retro-reflector.

Due to the errors at NORAD, which had, in fact, confused the Australian-Russian satellite with the Technion one, the Russians sent a laser beam to Gurwin II. Thanks to its retro-reflector, they received its exact location.

The Russians commented that "the most astonishing thing is that ... your satellite reflects the laser signals very well... Usually it's a problem to make good retro-reflectors."

They asked for more information on Gurwin II "if it's not classified. We could continue this cooperation that was initiated quite incidentally," wrote Prof. V.D. Shargorodsky.

The retro-reflector, designed at the Technion and built in Moscow, is not classified, so an American error may lead to Israeli-Russian cooperation on satellites.

CLUB

Continued from Page 1

After that surrender, the old package-deal mechanism all but disappeared, except once, in the winter of 1989, when finance minister Shimon Peres tried to help exporters by sanctioning Israel's last administrative devaluation, a measure which, needless to say, ultimately helped no one.

Now, the newly launched economic council will be expected by a host of interest groups, ranging from populist politicians to globe-trotting industrialists, to do the politically improbable, socially impossible, and economically unthinkable.

Politically, the new forum will try to reconcile such antagonists as Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel. The thought of Frenkel tampering with monetary policy in turn for this or that arrangement elsewhere in the economy is absurd. Frenkel would rather give up his job – a move which would alarm financial markets and threaten the shekel's hard-won stability – than be party to this kind of horse trading.

Similarly, the fiscally orthodox Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is likely to flatly turn down Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky's demands for increased spending.

Socially, demands by the business sector to lower the minimum wage, whose increase in recent years clearly accelerated local unemployment and foreign-worker importation, are likely to be torpedoed by Peretz, et al, for whom the tax-financed social safety net which entangles entrepreneurs remains a tenet of faith.

Economically, the new forum will bicker over how to reallocate, and even expand the existing budget, which can only result in even higher taxes. At the same time it will be neither inclined nor equipped to launch what is truly imperative – deep tax cuts, a sweeping governmental weight-loss plan, and ambitious infrastructure projects.

Binyamin Netanyahu could have achieved progress on all these fronts, had he bothered – while he was still leader of the opposition – devising plans for what to do if he actually became prime minister. Now, even if it isn't too late, which seems increasingly unlikely, a new debating club of irreconcilable antagonists is hardly a remedy for his predicament.

This government does have two major economic achievements – restoring fiscal discipline and currency stability – but the former is mainly associated with former finance minister Dan Meridor and the latter with Jacob Frenkel.

To leave an imprint of his own on the economy, Netanyahu must ultimately confront major interest groups head-on, and that can hardly be achieved by convening them all into a forum where they will cancel each other out.

IDF pavilion will host 10,000 soldiers

By STEVE RODAN

Brig.-Gen. Zion Sapir recalled hosting IDF soldiers recently at the Jubilee Exhibition yesterday when he passed a huge photograph of prime minister Golda Meir and IDF chief of staff Lt.-Gen. David Elazar taken during the Yom Kippur War.

"I pointed to the picture and asked the soldiers who they were," said Sapir, commander of training and guidance for IDF ground forces. "They didn't know. It was very sad."

Sapir, during a tour for reporters of the IDF pavilion at the Jubilee Exhibition at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds, said he hopes the military show will educate his own soldiers as much as it will help civilians understand the importance of the IDF during Israel's 50 years of independence.

"The history of this country is something that has to be internalized," he said.

Sapir, the officer responsible for the pavilion, said the IDF obtained permission to allow 10,000 soldiers to tour the exhibition for free. The IDF exhibition, which opened last night to an audience that included Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, includes the best of Israeli weaponry.

The Arrow anti-missile defense system, an upgraded MiG-21, the F-15, unmanned air vehicles, the Gill anti-tank missile and the Sholef artillery are among the exhibits at the huge military pavilion.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

Neeman yesterday attacked the Manufacturers Association for creating panic among the workforce by predicting that unemployment will reach 10.4 percent, or 240,000 jobless, this year.

"I ask them not to generate fear by relating a Book of Lamentations all the time," he said.

Prior to Netanyahu's announcement, Neeman said the government is doing as much as is humanly possible to correct the rise in unemployment. Neeman also issued a warning shot to the new council: "You can't create jobs by dishing out money to factories when they have no financial basis."

Asked by reporters when new jobs will be created, particularly for older workers, he said, "Only when we stop bringing foreign workers into the country."

Turning to the central bank's monetary policy, which has been under ongoing attack by four members of the new council, Neeman said that in the near future he expects a drop in real interest rates as inflation continues to fall. Real interest rates currently lie between 7% and 8%, considerably above the levels in Western Europe. Neeman stressed that he believes there is no link between low inflation and high unemployment, as some businesspeople and trade unionists are suggesting.

The creation of the council was welcomed by Sharansky, who only last week called for the establishment of an inner cabinet committee for economic affairs.

"The committee's raison d'etre must be to devise policies that will bring about sustainable growth, deal with unemployment in a way that creates growth, and monitor economic developments," he said.

Likud withdraws support for Rubin

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The Likud has withdrawn its support from Tel Aviv mayoral candidate Doron Rubin because party leaders have concluded his chances of winning the elections against Labor's Ron Huldai are slim, a Likud spokeswoman said yesterday.

Rubin said he has decided to run on an independent list and advised Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of this Sunday evening.

He said his list, which will be called "Doron for Tel Aviv," would "be good for all Tel Aviv residents, both Likud and Labor supporters."

Rubin asked to meet Netanyahu after his relations with the Likud branch in Tel Aviv and its head, Eitan Sulami, deteriorated.

One of the reasons for this was Rubin's insistence on including left-wing figures in his list, a move the Likud members objected to. The branch members also demanded that the name "Likud" appear in Rubin's ads and posters.

Rubin moved to Tel Aviv only about two months ago, after the Likud decided to run him for mayor, and most of his efforts have gone into making himself known. So far the Likud has spent some NIS 1 million on his campaign.

Netanyahu told Rubin the Likud will not run another candidate against him, but will field a list of its own for city council.

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Haredim again protest J'lem road

By AMY KLEIN

Masses of haredim converged on Route 1 in northern Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood yesterday to protest the start of excavations at the construction site. The Antiquities Authority was scheduled to begin reburying bones yesterday.

Police arrested eight demonstrators in the morning. About 100 haredim returned in the afternoon, police said, accompanied by the head of the Atra Kadisha, Rabbi David Shmidl, and the chairman of the Eda Haredit, Rabbi Gershon Stemr.

Both organizations oppose the Jerusalem Rabbinical Council's ruling which allows the bones discovered there to be reburied about 60 meters below.

The Antiquities Authority estimates that there are 25 bodies in the 50-meter area, probably from the Byzantine period.

"Since they will touch the bones, we will continue giant demonstrations," said Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, a representative of the Eda Haredit. Even if their demonstrations don't deter construction, Meshi-Zahav said, they will continue to demonstrate. "We will do what we have to do."

For the past month, Moriah, the government's contractor, dug new graves in preparation for the reburial. The Antiquities Authority was scheduled to move the bones yesterday, under supervision of the Hevra Kadisha.

But Moriah has still not invited the Antiquities Authority to begin. "We will probably invite them in the next few days," spokesman Itzo Gur said. He added that it will take the Antiquities Authority about a week to rebury the bones. Moriah will then be able to complete the road, whose construction has been held up for more than six months due to the dispute over the bones.

Mayor Ehud Olmert had promised Pisgat Ze'ev residents that the road would be completed by the end of September. Route 1 will connect Pisgat Ze'ev and other north Jerusalem neighborhoods to the city center.

Some 1,200 new apartments cannot be occupied until the road is completed.



Border policemen drag a protester away from the archeological excavation at the site of Route 1 in Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood yesterday.

State attorney: Keep Sheves charges secret

The draft indictment against Shimon Sheves contains sensitive information regarding the state's security and should not be published, the State Attorney's Office claimed yesterday.

Publishing the draft could endanger Israel's relations with other states, the State Attorney's Office said at the hearing of a petition by *Yediot Aharonot* that it be allowed to print its contents. The court had previously issued a temporary order banning publication of the draft charge sheet.

The Jerusalem District Court pointed out yesterday that the attorney-general is still compiling the charge sheet against Sheves, who is suspected of fraud, breach of trust, and accepting bribes worth NIS 800,000 while he was the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office under Yitzhak Rabin.

Sheves allegedly accepted a bribe of NIS 350,000 in an affair involving a foreign country. He is also suspected of having tried to get another $5 million.

Sheves also is suspected of receiving NIS 450,000 in return for promoting a building project and cutting through the red tape usually involved in such projects.

Sheves was a controversial director-general who clashed with several ministers. He resigned from his post on June 1, 1995.

(Itim and Jerusalem Post Staff)

Jewish Agency, Sephardim create new unity forum

By GIL HOFFMAN

Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg yesterday met with a group of MKs and leaders of Sephardi organizations to discuss how to use the agency to promote Jewish unity.

Calling it the Forum for National Unity, Burg organized the coalition following last week's derogatory statements by Labor MK Ori Orr. MKs and Sephardi leaders recommended to Burg possible initiatives to counteract the damage done by the statements.

"We have created a nucleus that will work together to create a dynamic for achieving social and civil awareness in Israel," Burg said.

Commenting that "Orr exposed a sensitive nerve of frustration in Israeli society that never died," Burg said he is looking into how best to use the resources of the Jewish Agency to make Orr's statements a catalyst for dealing with ethnic, religious, and political conflicts in Israel.

Burg said his reaction to Orr is to formulate practical initiatives to implement in time for the High Holy Days and the new school year.

The forum will work in support of making free compulsory education available by law for children at all levels, form an economic committee in support of equal opportunities, and organize a unity conference of youth from all sectors of the population. Burg said he will set up a meeting with Education Minister Yitzhak Levy to discuss the initiatives.

The coalition includes Labor MKs Burg, Nissim Zvilli, Uzi Baram, Rafi Elul, and Adisu Massala, Likud MKs Ehud Olmert and Shaul Amor, Gesher MKs Maxim Levy and Yehuda Lankri, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Matan Vilna'i, and the heads of a number of Sephardi organizations.

Yehezkel Zakai, head of the Federation of Sephardim, complained that the contributions of Sephardim who helped found the country have been ignored in literature and film. Burg said some of the money he plans on raising from abroad in the aftermath of Orr's statements could go toward better advertising of contributions of Sephardi pioneers.

Because of Orr's statements, ethnic issues that were previously taboo will remain on the table, Zakai predicted. "Now that [ethnic issues] have become a political issue, the politicians won't let it be forgotten."



Helping with absorption

Children at Jerusalem's Givat Hamatos Absorption Center display the Dor Shalom day camp T-shirts they received yesterday. Some 30 children took part in the activities program. (Kevin Unger)

Polish FM stays out of Auschwitz cross row

WARSAW (AP) – Poland's government indicated yesterday it would stay out of a controversy over crosses placed near the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

Catholics from a nationalist movement in Silesia erected a three-meter cross over the weekend near a cluster of crosses that surround a larger cross outside the Auschwitz memorial. The crosses have angered Jewish organizations, which want them removed. But Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek said the government would leave the matter to proper authorities, meaning the Roman Catholic Church in Poland.

"The Polish government hopes that the cross in Poland will always be a uniting symbol and will not be used for political manifestations," he said.

The largest cross – eight meters tall – was erected in 1988 to commemorate a 1979 mass conducted in the area by Pope John Paul II. It is outside Auschwitz, on neighboring land that used to be a Carmelite cloister.

Jewish organizations complain the cross, which is visible from the former death camp, violates the memory of Jews who died at Auschwitz and want it removed.

Yad Vashem on Sunday demanded the removal of the crosses, calling them a provocation that "may prevent further dialogue between the sides about the future of the site." The local Catholic archbishop, Damian Zimon, has called placing more crosses at Auschwitz "unnecessary manipulation," but has yet to say if the church would remove the crosses.

Church officials say they have no plans to make any decision on the matter in the near future.

NEWS
in brief

Alleged molester's remand extended

The remand of Dr. Yitzhak Hamra, who is suspected of molesting a 15-year-old girl in his Tel Aviv apartment, was extended for three days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. It emerged in court that Hamra, 47, had been released from prison two years ago after serving a six-year sentence for defrauding elderly people. After that conviction, his license to practice medicine was revoked. *Itim*

Doctors to learn to deal with violent patients

The Israel Medical Association is cosponsoring a course to teach doctors and other medical staff how to respond to violent patients, IMA head Dr. Yoram Blachar told Army Radio yesterday. Four hospitals and a clinic will initially offer the course to their employees. The hospitals and clinics will help fund the course, which will be run with the help of Bar-Ilan University's School of Social Work.

The decision was made following a series of incidents in which patients attacked doctors and emergency room staff. *Itim*

Store found holding artifacts illegally

During a routine check of a store selling antiques in eastern Jerusalem, Antiquities Authority inspectors found a bag containing rings, a seal, and 100 coins from the Roman and Byzantine period. None of the sellers in the store acknowledged ownership of the bag.

The Antiquities Authority filed a complaint with police, who detained one suspect. The contents of the bag, which archeologists said were quite valuable, have been turned over to the Rockefeller Museum. *Itim*

Lebanese petition High Court on detention

Two residents of the security zone petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday and asked it to issue a writ of habeas corpus, so that they could be brought before a court.

Tanius Assaf and Elias Nasrallah were arrested by South Lebanese Army soldiers. Nasrallah in January and Assaf last month. They are suspected of involvement in attacks against the IDF and SLA.

According to their lawyer, they have been held in Khiam prison in south Lebanon since their arrests, and have been tortured. They have consistently denied any involvement in plots against either army.

The two claim that since Khiam prison, though run by the SLA, is essentially under Israeli jurisdiction, they are being held illegally, since there has been no judicial review of their status, in contravention of Israel law. *Itim*

Hadassah gets new director

Prof. Avi Yisraeli yesterday assumed the post of director of the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in Jerusalem, replacing Prof. Shmuel Penchas, who retired.

Yisraeli, 44, studied medicine at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, specializing in internal medicine, and has a master's degree in business admistration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He had been associate director of HMO since 1993.

He will continue teaching at the medical school and the school of public health. *Judy Siegel*

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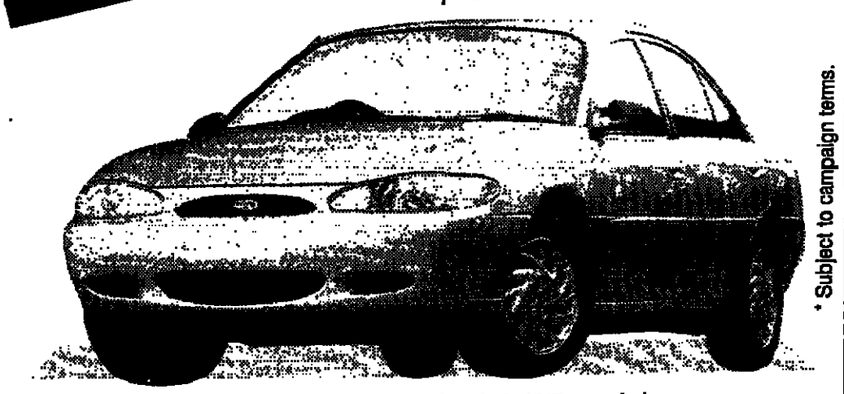
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Murder in China

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

It has often been charged that Taiwan's paranoia about China has inhibited its ability to take a realistic negotiating position on reunification with the mainland. But even paranoids have real enemies.

Last week a Taiwanese woman politician was kidnapped and murdered in northeast China. Not unreasonably, her party, the Democratic Progressive Party, has frozen all further contacts and exchanges with China pending a comprehensive explanation of why a prominent Taiwanese woman like Lin Ti-chuan could disappear in so brutal a fashion.

There is no suggestion at all of any official Chinese involvement in the crime. What is being questioned is China's ability to ensure the safety of Taiwanese citizens while it is trying to woo their country in delicate negotiations.

Wrong attitude

Some 30 Taiwanese have been killed in China in the past seven years and another 26 were subjected to kidnapping threats or attempts, according to records in Taipei. In a notorious incident in March 1994, 24 Taiwanese tourists were robbed and murdered on Qiandao Lake in the Zhejiang province on the east coast.

Visitors can be victims of violence in any country. What defines the country as civilized is the way in which it responds to such attacks. As is so often the case in China, Beijing's belligerent self pity is not the way to go about it. Its response to Qiandao initially amounted to an arrogant cover-up.

Lin Ti-chuan was 33 years old and a member of the city council of Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan. Her body was found in the mortuary of a hospital in Haicheng city after she had been dead for two days, apparently from a lethal injection administered by her kidnappers.

"This was an isolated criminal case," said the *Chinese People's Daily*, which swiftly moved on to accuse Taiwan of making political capital from the incident.

In the context of the mistrust between China and Taiwan, it is hardly surprising that Lin's family and political colleagues would make a fuss about her murder. The onus was on China to accept responsibility and to do all it could to defuse the emotion surrounding the murder.

Media event

A golden opportunity arose when Lin's DPP party asked to send officials to support her family and provide an escort home for the body. China did not respond – a typical example of the counter-productive insensitivity that constantly undermines Beijing's expensive and blundering public-relations efforts to improve its image overseas.

It is the same blundering that allows China to release a token dissident before an American president visits the country, only to round up another bunch of democracy activists as soon as he leaves, and think no one will notice.

What is remarkable about China's bullheaded rejection of every criticism is its failure to see its stupidity. Probably the best international press China has received in recent years was for allowing its president's famous human-rights debate with President Bill Clinton to be televised nationwide. Yet Beijing appears to have learned little of lasting good from this.

The murder of the Taiwan politician provided China with an opportunity to do the right thing. Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui asked China "to handle the case properly," a clear hint that out of the evil some good could be salvaged for Taiwan-China relations, especially since the two were just preparing to resume semi-official talks suspended since 1995.

Liu Gangqi, of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait and a top negotiator with Taiwan, made a start by calling Lin's murder "a tragedy we did want to see." He should have left it at that, instead of ranting on about those who wished to make political capital out of it.

Saddam reprise

The story of course has been given huge media coverage in Taiwan and played down to millimeters of space in China. China does not have to care about public opinion, Taiwan does. That's the difference between democracy and communism.

In a defense policy review last week, China again renewed its threat to retake Taiwan by force. It is well known that China is sensitive and hostile to any activity, or even opinion, that undermines its view of Taiwan as a renegade province. Yet nobody is doing more to undermine China's position than China itself.

In many ways it continues preaching to the converted – few states or media commentators deny that Taiwan is part of motherland China. But the converted are rapidly becoming the irritated, as China's whining, belligerency and endless criticism drone on and on.

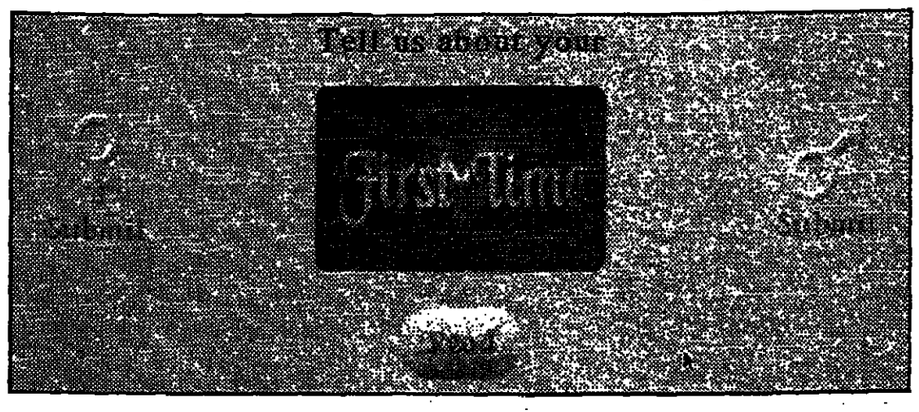
The correct path for reunifying all of China is for the mainland to become more like Taiwan, not the other way round. Taking Taiwan, a democratic state of 20 million people, by force will not work, and that must be made absolutely clear to Chinese leaders.

Saddam Hussein assumed retaking his "province" of Kuwait would be easy. There's another lesson there somewhere – the international community of democracies may seem uncaring at times – but only up to a point.

Another cyberspace 'first'

While the wild tale of a couple planning to consummate their relationship on the Internet turned out to be a fraud, it exposed the medium as the greatest rumor-monger ever

By YOUNG CHANG



News coverage of two teenagers losing their virginity online made the 'Our First Time' Web site an Internet must-see: The small-time service provider who first put it up saw it inundated by as many as 500,000 to 1 million hits an hour.

If you can believe anything you read anymore, let alone online reports about an online scam, here's how the latest Internet hoax began. It was, according to online news service Ziff Davis Net, one of those instantly intimate conversations between strangers unique to online chat rooms.

First, "Diane" said: Oh look, a 40-year-old having a baby on the Net, how beautiful.

Replied "Oscar Wells": Isn't it?

Diane said: So beautiful.

The "first step" should be shown. I'd lose my virginity just to prove the point.

Oscar said: I can make that happen.

Diane replied: You pervert.

Oscar was undaunted: Come on, he said. It's the "right thing."

Diane said: OK.

That was a month ago. Two weeks later, Oscar Wells (actually a small-time actor and filmmaker named Ken Tipton), asked about 20 people in an online chat room if they had seen his new "Our First Time" Web site. In less than 12 hours, he says, the rest of the online world had learned about Diane and her boyfriend "Mike" and their supposed plan to consummate their relationship live, on camera, on the Internet.

Since then, the tale of Diane and Mike and Oscar Wells has made headlines, first as a phenomenon, then as a fraud. A few days ago, Diane and Mike bared the truth: They are actually Michelle Parma and Ty Taylor, both struggling actors. Oh, and neither, it seems, is a virgin.

This supposed "first" for the Internet was fishy from the start. The site's come-on – the "teens" were supposedly churchgoing honor students – and its suggestive photographs were two clues. The muddled philosophy about "sexual freedom" it offered as a rationale for the event might have been scribbled by an 18-year-old, but also seemed contrived.

But once the news about "Our First Time" hit the newspapers and airwaves, it gained almost instant legitimacy. It drew fire from both politicians and moralistic hackers.

Conservative Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, in a speech about the Internet School Filtering Bill, said, "We must take immediate steps to prevent the Internet from doing more harm than good by bringing such offensive materials into our nation's schools and libraries."

Some hackers reportedly tried to destroy the site.

News coverage made the site an Internet "must-see": The small-time service provider who first put it up saw it inundated by as many as 500,000 to 1 million hits an hour. (That did not go unnoticed by other Internet entrepreneurs, who paid "Our First Time" the ultimate compliment by trying to rip it off. Many set up commercial sites with pointedly similar Web addresses to peddle their own online sex wares.)

BUT why was there such breathless response to something so questionable to begin with, something that proved to be just another in an endless stream of urban legends, phony e-mails and money-making hoaxes to be propagated via the Internet?

There was, of course, the subject matter: teenagers losing their virginity together in front of the whole wired world. But sex of every stripe is everywhere on the Internet already. So why did we fall so hard for such a seemingly obvious deception?

Dr. Fred Berlin, an associate professor specializing in sexual disorders at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, suggests such mania is owed to giving "more weight to the messenger than to the message."

Although it's common knowledge that information disseminated on the Internet is not always reliable, there is something about a computer screen that renders the information it carries credible, Berlin says. He compares it to our automatic acceptance of an X-ray that we are told reveals a broken bone.

"We're very much a technological society," he says. "We tend to put great weight on that which comes to us through technology."

Robert L. Schrag, professor of communications at North Carolina State University, agrees.

"If we think about what makes any communication interaction credible, we come down to three criteria – intimacy, authority, and harmony.... (The Internet) blends these things," he says.

Paradoxically, the medium's interactive nature also makes information extremely malleable. It's a source, he says, whose authority can be changed into an "interactive conversational medium."

"I can affect that screen," he says. "I can click on it and make it change."

Dirk Smillie, founder and director of the News Research Group, a nonpartisan independent research organization in New York City, says the speed at which the Internet spreads information – true or false – is why momentum for even the most dubious claims can build so quickly. That momentum, he says, "eliminates any possibility to corroborate the information."

These "accidents" include the cyber-spread of urban legends as well as Web site hoaxes.

Dan Miller, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Dayton who has studied urban legends extensively, says, "They're relatively new and, in another sense...they're old too."

Old tales such as Kentucky Fried Chicken customers finding mice in a bucket of chicken, or the old woman being bitten by a snake in a supermarket have gained new life online. They are well-worn stories without any truth, says Miller, but "they are accurate, in the sense that they lay out fears of people's everyday lives...they're cautionary tales."

The Internet can be a hall of mirrors, too, with a seemingly innocent Web site offering something completely unexpected.

Good examples are sites using legitimate-sounding names such as "www.whitehouse.com" (instead of the official www. whitehouse.gov) or slight misspellings (such as "EPSN" instead of ESPN) to lead Web surfers to pornographic material, according to Tom Riley, senior analyst at Statistical Assessment Service, a nonprofit research organization in Washington, D.C.

But part of the problem, it seems, is also the "old" media's readiness to report on Internet nonsense at face value. The first Reuters news agency report on the Diane and Mike story was sent to news organizations completely without qualification.

(To its credit, the agency pursued the story and reported on its exposure as a fraud.)

Mary Schmich, a Chicago Tribune columnist, recently found herself unwittingly part of an Internet-fueled fabrication. A column she wrote in the form of a mock-graduation speech made the rounds on the Internet as a speech written and delivered by writer Kurt Vonnegut.

Vonnegut himself had to set the record straight.

Journalists love a good story, they always have, she says. The minute they spot one, "they tend to suspend their suspicion," Schmich says. "And all it takes is a semilegitimate person to report it."

When a story "rises from the Net one semilegitimate step" to a wire service report, most journalists are inclined to believe it.

Art Jahnke, senior editor for *CIO Magazine*, a technology and business publication that covers Internet issues, says there is a more fundamental reason why many of us believed the news about Mike and Diane: We wanted to believe it.

"It's more rewarding to people if they believe (a story) is true," he says. "Innocence is attractive."

(The Baltimore Sun)

Australians debate the population issue

Byb MICHAEL PERRY

SYDNEY – "Populate or Perish" was once the rallying call for high immigration in Australia, but today many here are calling for a smaller population.

Far right politician Pauline Hanson has called for zero net migration to counter what her One Nation party calls the "Asianization of Australia."

Environmentalists argue for a lowering of immigration and population, saying the current 18.5 million population is ecologically unsustainable. But some prominent business leaders are calling for a major increase for economic reasons.

So how many people should live in Australia?

Australia has no population policy, despite discussion of the issue since World War I. People then talked of a future nation of 100 million people.

"The cart must not be placed before the horse, making population policy merely an undefined, inexplicit consequence of immigration policy," said former Labor government science minister Barry Jones in the last population report in 1994.

Australia has no target population. Immigration is determined on an annual basis, which both sides of the debate agree is ad hoc.

They also agree that there is a lack of political will to publicly tackle such issues, especially with the rise of the ultra-conservative One Nation.

Former Liberal prime minister Malcolm Fraser wants a vigorous public debate. "I think it is absolutely critical for the future of Australia to have that debate. I think Australia, as it is, cannot survive," he says. Asia's booming populations create a geopolitical reason to increase population to 45 or 50 million by 2050, Fraser believes.

"We are going to be regarded as wealthy, selfish, lazy, introspective, sidelined, irrelevant to the world, if we are only a nation by then of 20 to 23 million people," he says.

Australia's population is one of the fastest growing among members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Australian Bureau of Statistics on July 14 estimated the population could reach 26.4 million by 2051.

Since its election in March 1996, Prime Minister John Howard's conservative government has reduced immigration to 80,000 in 1998-99, with net permanent migrants around 55,000.

The bureau said the population would be capped at 20 million in 2025 if One Nation's zero net migration proposal, which would mean 30,000 permanent migrants a year, was adopted. It would then decline between 2025 and 2029 as Australia's fertility rate is now at an all-time low of 1.7 children per woman or 10% below replacement level.

Australia's population is ageing, exerting pressure on economic growth as the work force declines and welfare and health budgets rise.

Business leaders believe the population must increase to a "critical mass" to sustain long-term economic growth and talk of a 50 million population by 2050 – which would require an annual migrant intake of around 200,000.

"If we are to sustain strong, high levels of economic growth we need to have a strong underpinning population base and that can only be achieved through strong migration levels," says David Buckingham, from the Business Council of Australia.

A comprehensive 1988 immigration and population report by Stephen Fitzgerald, now chairman of the Asia-Australia Institute, called for an annual immigration level of 125,000.

The report said such an intake level would boost gross domestic product by between 0.07 to 0.16%, while a higher intake of 220,000 would produce a gain of 0.09 to 0.21%.

Skilled migrants have invested A$300 million (US$185 million) in Australia in the past three years, says a government survey released in May. (Reuters)



The book department

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White House to try to prevent Lindsey testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) – With pressure growing for President Bill Clinton to explain his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the White House yesterday decided to continue the legal fight seeking to block testimony by presidential confidant Bruce Lindsey, an official said.

The administration official said the White House would appeal a decision last month by a three-judge appeals court panel that ordered Lindsey to testify before a grand jury. The judges rejected arguments that Lindsey's testimony was protected by attorney-client privilege.

The official said the White House was leaning toward an appeal directly to the Supreme Court, bypassing a chance to appeal to the full US Court of Appeals. A final decision was to be announced later yesterday.

Lindsey, a deputy White House counsel and Clinton's closest adviser, has declined to answer several of prosecutors' questions in the Lewinsky case. He argued that disclosing his conversations with the president would violate Clinton's right to confidential legal advice.

But both the judge overseeing the grand jury and a three-judge appeals court panel ruled that a government lawyer could not use the attorney-client privilege to keep from testifying in a federal criminal investigation of alleged government misconduct.

Clinton escaped the pressure-cooker atmosphere in Washington over the weekend by raising $2 million for the Democratic Party in the fashionable Hamptons area of Long Island, N.Y., where he partied with Hollywood and Wall Street supporters and greeted friendly residents and visitors who reached out to touch him.

"I'm glad I got to go," he said Sunday as Air Force One headed back to the capital.

He returned to fresh calls to come clean about the nature of his contacts with Lewinsky, the former White House intern who under an immunity deal apparently has agreed to tell Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr she had a sexual relationship with the president. Starr also is investigating whether Clinton urged her to lie about an affair; Clinton has denied any affair publicly and under oath.

In Toronto, after giving a speech about the Supreme Court, Starr indicated to reporters he would show deference to the presidency. "One of the things that I want to make clear is that it is very important we respect our institutions of government and seek to discharge the duties that we have, that we're charged with carrying on, in a way that is very respectful of the institutions of our government," Starr commented.

When the controversy broke six months ago, the president promised to explain his relationship with the young woman "sooner rather than later." But he has stayed mum since then.

On Friday, he indicated his public silence has been for his legal protection, even as he said he was "looking forward" to testifying August 17, live on closed-circuit television, to a grand jury in the case. "I will do so completely and truthfully. I am anxious to do it. But I hope you can understand why, in the interim, I can and should have no further comment on these matters," he said.

If Starr finds potential evidence of impeachable offenses, he would submit a report to the House. The House Judiciary Committee would then decide whether to initiate impeachment proceedings.

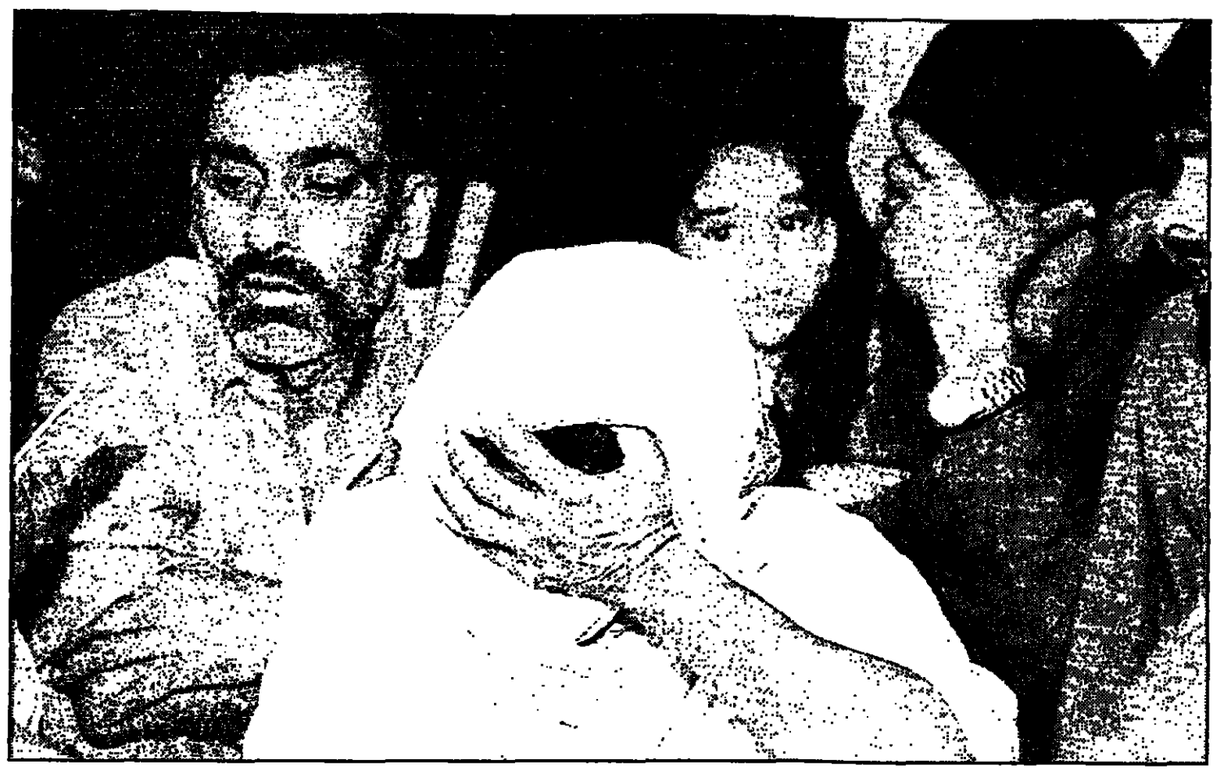
Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Orrin Hatch, whose panel would receive any articles of impeachment from the House, said he thinks Congress would forgive Clinton if the case was solely a matter of sexual misconduct. "If he comes forth and tells it and does it in the right way and there aren't a lot of other factors to cause the Congress to say this man is unfit for the presidency and should be impeached, then I think the president would have a reasonable chance of getting through this," Hatch said Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

Some Democrats are sending the same message to Clinton as the party tries to win back control of the House in November mid-term elections and hold on to governor's mansions.

"I would make peace with my wife and I'd stand up and say, 'Here's the deal,'" Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, told *Time* magazine. "Even though it might make Starr's case, no Congress would ever impeach him."

Similarly, Clinton's former chief of staff, Leon Panetta said, "If that's the truth, so be it." Congress might admonish Clinton for a consensual sexual relationship, but "this issue is going to dominate his presidency if he doesn't resolve it quickly," Panetta said on CNN's *Late Edition*.

34 massacred in Kashmir



Kashmiris show their distress while telling the story of the massacre. (AP)

NEW DELHI (AP) – Suspected Kashmiri guerrillas killed 34 sleeping construction workers in two attacks along a remote mountain road near Kashmir's state border, venturing farther than before from the Moslem heartland they want to free from Indian rule, police said yesterday.

At least 11 people were injured in the two attacks, provincial officials said.

An unknown number of militants burst into a shed at Kalaban, 15 kilometers from the nearest town Chamba in the northern Himachal Pradesh state, and sprayed gunfire on laborers working on a road-widening project. Six people were wounded.

As the gunmen returned toward the border of Jammu-Kashmir state, they attacked a second batch of construction workers at the nearby Shatrundi village, officials said. Eight people were killed and three injured.

Both attacks occurred a few hours before dawn, said Mohinder Kumar, a police officer reached by telephone in Chamba.

A team of doctors rushed from Chamba to care for the wounded. There are no hospitals in the region, an official said.

The mountainous area, 450 kilometers north of New Delhi, is a few miles across the state border of Jammu-Kashmir where militants have become more active.

It was the fourth multiple killing attributed to Kashmiri militants in just over a week. A total of 20 people were killed and five others wounded in the previous attacks, all in mountain villages in the Udhampur district of Kashmir, about 100 km. from where Sunday's massacre took place.

The separatist insurgency that erupted in 1989 has been centered in the Kashmir Valley, where most residents are Moslem.

Under pressure from the military, the separatists have been striking more often in the Hindu-populated area of southern Jammu-Kashmir, said Maj.-Gen. P.P.S Bindra, the army commander in Udhampur.

On Saturday, the military announced a new offensive against the guerrillas. The army said it would deploy heavy reinforcements along the disputed border with Pakistan, draft new battalions for anti-insurgency operations, and speed up plans to arm villagers against insurgents in vulnerable areas, officials said.

Islamic militants are fighting for an independent homeland or for merger with India's Islamic neighbor Pakistan. India accuses Pakistan of providing material and men to the insurgency in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state. Pakistan says it only gives moral and political support to the movement.

The two nations have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since they became independent from British rulers in 1947.

Mexican opposition wins crucial victory

AGUASCALIENTES, Mexico (AP) – Mexico's leading opposition party captured the governor's seat in the central state of Aguascalientes yesterday, a victory that gives it fresh momentum heading toward the 2000 presidential race.

More than anything, the gubernatorial contests in Aguascalientes and two other states Sunday underscored the growing competitiveness of elections in a country where for decades one party – the Institutional Revolutionary Party – easily won every vote.

"Mexico has made another important step toward democracy," said historian Enrique Krauze, serving as an election-day analyst for the Mexican network Televisa. "The process was characterized by stability and tranquility."

With two-thirds of the vote counted in Aguascalientes early yesterday, Felipe Gonzalez Gonzalez of National Action was ahead with 53 percent of the vote, the State Electoral Council said.

The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party's candidate, Hector Hugo Olivares Ventura, trailed with 37 percent, followed by Alfonso Bernal Sahagun of the center-left Democratic Revolution Party, with 7 percent.

"What we want for Aguascalientes is a transition that does not hold back its progress, that does not cause a scandal," Gonzalez Gonzalez told a news conference after media exit polls showed him the winner.

Complete preliminary results in Aguascalientes, as well as in Oaxaca and Veracruz, were not expected until later yesterday. The final official results for all three races were not expected until later in the week.

The vote in Aguascalientes came a month after National Action, known by its Spanish initials as the PAN, lost one of its six governor's seats. It was defeated by the ruling party, known as the PRI, in Chihuahua. Aguascalientes was seen as the PAN's best opportunity to offset the loss.

The PRI, which long maintained its power through a mix of patronage, strong-arm tactics and cheating at the ballot box, has seen devastating electoral losses in recent years following reforms aimed at stamping out vote fraud and making elections more competitive.

The PRI suffered its worst setbacks last year when it lost control of the lower house of Congress and was defeated in the Mexico City mayoral race. But it won two of three elections last month, including in Chihuahua, where it defeated the PAN.

In the southern state of Oaxaca yesterday, the PRI had a widening advantage over the center-left Democratic Revolution party for the governorship.

The PRD was challenging the count, arguing that the computer system reporting results crashed for 40 minutes and when it returned to service, the results had been altered.

Havel undergoes tracheotomy

PRAGUE (AP) – Czech President Vaclav Havel underwent a tracheotomy yesterday to fix a lung problem that developed after he was taken off a respirator.

A tracheotomy is routine surgery during which a small artificial hole is made in the throat to facilitate breathing.

Havel had been taken off a respirator on Sunday. There was no immediate word on how the latest procedure, which began around midday, was faring.

"Last night, a small inflammation occurred in the right lung, and we have decided to perform a tracheotomy after all," Miroslav Cerbak, the head of Havel's medical team, told Czech radio.

Havel had abdominal surgery July 26 designed to restore his digestive tract following the ruptured colon he suffered in April. That operation was declared successful, but Havel's recovery is hindered by breathing problems.

"The president suffered a renewed attack of atelectasis in the right lung, accompanied by mild fever," an official statement from the medical team said.

Atelectasis means the lung has collapsed, fails to perform properly and bring enough oxygen into the patient's bloodstream.

The 61-year-old president, formerly a chain smoker, has been hospitalized five times since December 1996, when he had a third of his lung and a tumor removed.

According to doctors Havel will need six to eight weeks before he can return to office.

Vigil held to remember Gypsy Holocaust victims

BUDAPEST (AP) – Hungary's Gypsy community marked the anniversary of the *Porajmous* with an all-night vigil that ended at dawn yesterday.

During the night of August 2-3, 1944, the Nazis murdered 4,500 Gypsies at Auschwitz-Birkenau to make room for more Jews. Gypsies refer to the slaughter as the *Porajmous*, which means "Devouring" in their language.

As dusk fell Sunday over the square in front of the Gothic national parliament, Erika Mate sang a Gypsy lament: "Dear God, let the day come when all the slaves are freed. Punish, the Germans, oh God, for they have killed the people..."

The vigil included the reading of a message from President Arpad Goencz, a ecumenical religious service, and the reading of names of thousands of Gypsy victims.

Speakers said that although the world has become aware of the Nazi's massacre of 6 million Jews, many remain unaware of the slaughter of Gypsies, homosexuals, Marxists and the mentally disadvantaged.

"In the name of the Hungarian government, I bow before the memory of the Roma victims of the Holocaust," said State Secretary Csaba Hende of the Justice Ministry.

Gypsies, who call themselves the Roma, are Hungary's biggest ethnic minority, an estimated 500,000-strong in a country of 10.2 million.

During the Third Reich, between 200,000 and 500,000 Gypsies were killed. The figure is uncertain because many of the victims were not registered and many deaths occurred in transit to concentration camps.

Of the 23,000 Gypsies taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau, nearly 21,000 were killed, according to Franciszek Piper of the Auschwitz State Museum.

Taiwan fires missile interceptors – report

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) – Taiwan has successfully test fired a missile interceptor, part of its defense buildup against Chinese missile attacks, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The ATBM anti-missile system, developed by Taiwan's military-run Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology, was test fired two weeks ago, the *China Times* quoted unidentified military officials as saying.

The radar-guided interceptor, a conversion of the locally developed Tien Kung surface-to-air missile, successfully intercepted a target missile off a base in southern Pingtung, it said.

It said the military would further improve the speed of the interceptor for use against China's M-type missiles when the ATBM is deployed in two years.

The Defense Ministry refused to comment on the report, which said Taiwan was the first nation in Asia to have home-developed anti-missile defense capability.

Taiwan has placed orders for 200 PAC-2 missiles, an upgraded version of the Patriots used by US forces against Iraqi Scuds during the 1991 Gulf War.

China test-fired the M-type missiles into waters near the island in 1995 and 1996 in response to a Taiwanese campaign to gain international recognition.

China claims Taiwan is a renegade province and threatens to use force to bring the island back into the fold.

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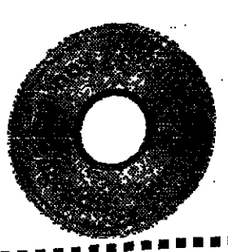
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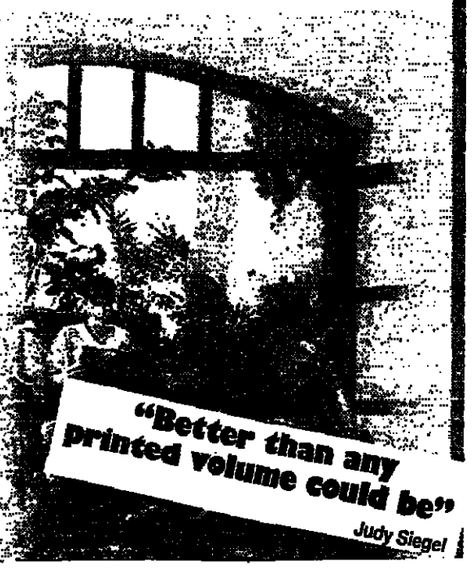
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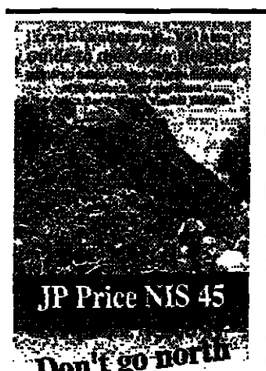
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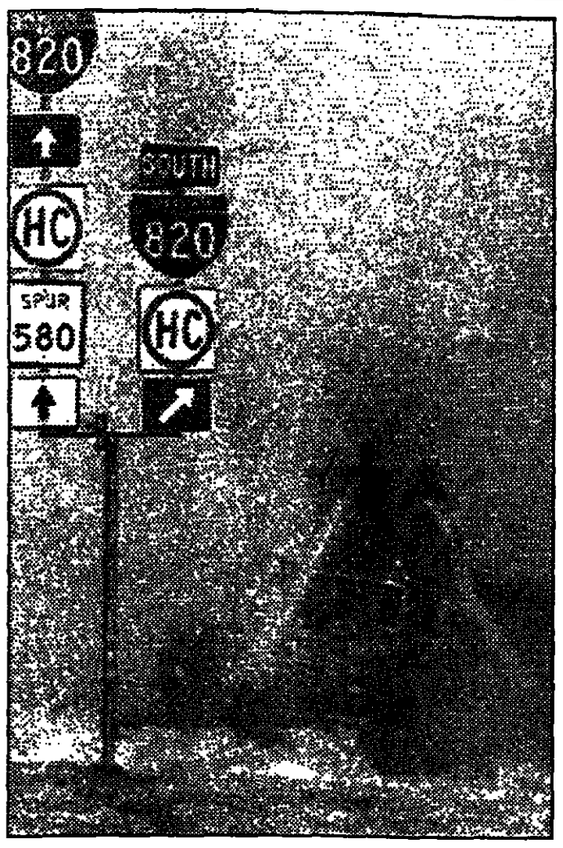
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Fiery hot in Texas

Firefighters battle a grass fire in Lake Worth, Texas, this week which burned a significant number of acres as dry weather and temperatures reaching 50°C continue to plague the area. (AP)

The mystery of JFK's autopsy

A review board finds that photographs and notes taken during President John F. Kennedy's autopsy disappeared, further fueling suspicions surrounding the assassination

By GEORGE LARDNER JR.

Notes taken at the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy by one of the examining physicians apparently disappeared that night, and the whereabouts of previously unknown photographs of Kennedy's wounds remain a mystery, according to medical records and testimony.

The Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board made the documents public Friday with an extraordinary staff report underscoring the shortcomings of the autopsy performed on Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington on Nov. 22, 1963.

Kennedy was killed hours earlier in Dallas and his body was brought to Washington after a vain effort to save him at Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital. Three doctors performed the autopsy at Bethesda without calling the treating physicians in Texas for guidance.

"One of the many tragedies of the assassination of President Kennedy has been the incompleteness of the autopsy record and the suspicion caused by the shroud of secrecy that has surrounded the records that do exist," the review board said in the staff report. "(T)he legacy of such secrecy ultimately has caused distrust and suspicion."

In an effort to compile a more complete record of the autopsy, the review board sought out additional witnesses and found, among others, Leonard D. Saslaw, a biochemist who recalled a loud lunchroom conversation between one of the autopsy physicians, Pierre A. Finck, and colleagues at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, days after the assassination.

Saslaw, who was sitting at the next table, said, "Dr. Finck was loudly lamenting the fact that the notes he had taken during the course of the autopsy on President Kennedy had disappeared, and that he had been forced to reconstruct his notes from memory.

"Dr. Finck complained," Saslaw told the board in an April 1996 interview, "that immediately after cleaning up following the conclusion of the autopsy, he looked for his notes and could not find them anywhere; and that even though others who had been at the autopsy had helped him search, that they could not be found."

Saslaw remembered Finck going on to say in angry tones that he had been forced as a result to reconstruct his notes from memory after the autopsy was over. Saslaw said he was struck by the conversation because he was well aware as a scientist that "any observations which are not written down contemporaneously, but reconstructed from memory after the fact, are not likely to be as accurate or complete."

Asked about the lunchroom episode in a May 1996 deposition, Finck said he did not remember it. He was also vague about how many notes he took during the autopsy but confirmed that "after the autopsy I also wrote notes" and that he turned over whatever notes he had to the chief autopsy physician, James J. Humes.

IT has long been known that Humes destroyed some original autopsy papers in a fireplace at his home on Nov. 24, 1963. He told the Warren Commission that what he burned was an original draft of his autopsy report.

Under persistent questioning at a February 1996 deposition by the Review Board, Humes said he destroyed the draft and his "original notes."

Asked whether he remembered Finck taking any notes during the autopsy, Humes said: "I do not. I don't say he didn't, but I don't recall that he did."

"This is bizarre," said assassination researcher and author David Lifton, whose work led the board to Saslaw. "All these papers disappearing or destroyed."

Other new witnesses dealt with photographs believed to have been taken at Bethesda by the late White House photographer Robert L. Knudsen, perhaps after the autopsy had been concluded and the embalming procedure had begun.

Saundra K. Spencer, who worked for Knudsen in "the White House lab" at the Naval Photographic Center in 1963, said she helped develop color negatives from film brought to her by an agent she thought was with the FBI. "He said that they had been shot at Bethesda and they were autopsy pictures," Spencer testified in a June 1997 deposition. The agent told "us to process them and try to not observe too much, don't peruse."

Shown official JFK autopsy photographs from the National Archives, Spencer said they were not the ones she helped process and were printed on different paper. She said "there was no blood or opening cavities" and the wounds were much smaller in the pictures she worked on, unlike in usual autopsy photos.

Knudsen's widow, Gloria, and two of his children said he told them he had "photographed the autopsy of President Kennedy" and "it was the hardest thing he ever had to do in his life." He also told them "the Secret Service took the film from him as soon as he had exposed" it.

John T. Stringer, who said he was the only one to take photos during the autopsy itself, said some of those were missing as well. He said pictures he took of Kennedy's brain at a "supplementary autopsy" were different from the official set shown to him.

Stringer said he "gave everything" he photographed during the brain examination to Humes who then gave the film to JFK's personal physician, the late Adm. George Burkley. According to Humes, Burkley also left the hospital with Kennedy's brain, saying that he was going to "deliver it to (Attorney General) Robert Kennedy," presumably for burial.

(The Washington Post)

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صكذا من الاصل

'Nouveau swing' in Tel Aviv

By Steve Rodan

Donald Harrison still remembers advice he received as an impressionable 18-year-old from master of jazz Dexter Gordon.

It was 20 years ago, and Harrison had arrived in New York from his native New Orleans looking to get noticed amid the huge number of excellent musicians who were flooding the city.

Gordon, the be-bop saxophonist whose life was told in the 1980s movie that bears his name, told the teenager to just be himself.

"He told me," Harrison recalls, "'Don't tell Charlie Parker's story. Don't tell Cannonball's story. Tell your story.'"

Harrison says he's been doing just that. His latest CD *Nouveau Swing* speaks of his influences and loves. He likes reggae; and he put it on the album. He likes New Orleans funk; it's there. He plays soca, hip hop, gospel, calypso, Motown.

"A lot of musicians are coming to me and saying 'You found the right thing,'" Harrison says. "Everywhere I've gone we've had standing ovations and encores. The people really love this music."

Now Harrison intends to bring "the right thing" to Israel. He is coming alone and performs tonight through Friday at Tel Aviv's Camelot Club at 10:30, and on Saturday at 8 at the Ein Hemed National Park, where tickets include a meal with wine. He's due to be supported by an Israeli jazz group familiar with his music. The band consists of Emil Ram, bass; Alex Katz, piano; and Shai Zalman, drums.

Just before the tour is to begin, Harrison relaxes one morning at his place in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn. It's about as far away from laid-back New Orleans as you can get.

Fort Greene is dominated by rappers, and it's hip to be bad – as long as it rhymes well and fits in 4/4 beat. The music pulsates from the front stoops of deteriorating tenements and the kids prepare to open the fire hydrants to escape the sweltering summer heat.

Harrison, 38, still makes New Orleans his home – where his wife and daughter live – and comes to New York for the business.

He has played with the Marsalis brothers, Art Blakey and other artists who have dominated the jazz scene from the 1950s through the '80s.

The meeting with Blakey took place in 1979 while Harrison was studying at the Berklee School of Music. Harrison got his saxophone and the two began to jam. Soon, Blakey invited Harrison aboard his Jazz Messengers group.

"Art Blakey was the most giving leader I have ever played with," Harrison recalls.

In 1982, Harrison won acclaim with trumpeter Terence Blanchard for their album *New York Second Line*. The duo played together until 1988 when both chose to pursue solo projects.

"I come to New York mostly to play jazz," Harrison says. "It has a different energy, more festivals, a lot of young guys who are getting contracts. It's just better overall."

He was scheduled to come to Israel with drummer Max Roach in the early 1990s but he couldn't get out of a previously-scheduled gig. An Israeli promoter saw him in Europe and issued another invitation.

He plans on playing music from *Nouveau Swing*.

Call it a groove album, highlighting Harrison's soft honey-rich alto over a variety of rhythms. From Fort Greene comes hip-hop. From Jamaica comes reggae. From New Orleans comes funk.

Harrison simmers these influences over a low flame. There's nothing obvious or heavy-handed about the album. Indeed, if you aren't thoroughly familiar with reggae you probably would not detect the subtle bass line and drum inflection.

His band is all acoustic – piano, bass, drums. No electronics. No brass. No noise.

"It's a new style of jazz, called nouveau swing," he says. "It mixes swing and be-bop from the '30s and '60s with reggae and hip-hop, jazz of the '90s. I love jazz music and the music that my peers listened to when I went to high school and college. It's the music of my contemporaries.

"I just heard those two sounds coming together. I kept it acoustic so it would sound like jazz."

Now, all Harrison is hoping for is that his Israeli backup group is ready.

"They tell me that the guys have learned my music," he says. "This is the first time we've been playing together."

Yes, he says with a soft lilt, coming into town alone has its pitfalls. Sometimes his backup band doesn't have it together.

"Some of this has been great and some of it has not been so good," he says. "I heard that these guys are marvelous."



New Orleans alto saxophonist Donald Harrison will play here with local musicans he's never met.

Laying claim to our souls





Nick Cave

There were no big surprises in the Tel Aviv Cinerama last week when Nick Cave and cohorts the Bad Seeds performed in Israel for the fourth time since 1993.

There were no pyrotechnics or big-screen TVs. The set list, give or take a few precious gems from his last couple of albums,

NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS
Tel Aviv Cinerama
July 27

was nearly song-for-song the recently released retrospective *The Best of Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds*.

When the 40-year-old Aussie took the stage, fiercely clutching his mike, dressed predictably and impeccably in a black pinstripe suit, it was like running into an old friend you haven't seen in years who, remarkably, hasn't changed a bit.

And yet throughout the two-and-a-half-hour show Cave shook, shocked and enraptured the thousands of loyal Israeli youth who turned up from all corners of the country with the eagerness and fervor of those attending a revival meeting.

When he chanted "he's a ghost, he's a god, he's a man, he's a guru," from *Red Right Hand*, we weren't quite convinced that the devilish creature laying claim to our souls wasn't Cave himself.

A few homicidal tales from 1996's *Murder Ballads*, as well as "Tupelo," a stormy ode to the cataclysmic birth of Elvis, punctuated a long list of some of the most earnest, heartfelt love songs being written today.

Cave's inexhaustible reservoir of rage seemed to live and breathe in his hands. His long, thin fingers gripped an endless chain of cigarettes as he pointed and rattled his fists in a way that emphasized, accused and warned all at the same time.

The Bad Seeds, led by veteran members Mick Harvey and Blixa Bargeld, provided the sometimes chaotic, sometimes restrained musical backdrop to Cave's deep, mellifluous vocals. Violinist Warren Ellis was often the calm eye in the clamorous storm of jangly guitars, booming bass and thunderous drums. But at times, with his back to the audience, bathed in a halo of blue, Ellis sawed so ferociously on his fiddle that he conjured up images of the violin-playing devil from the Charlie Daniels classic.

Cave left the building following two glorious sets of encores. The exhausted crowd spilled out on to the hot pavement of Tel Aviv, letting the redemptive powers of the music wash over them like a cool rain. *Tracy Fiske*

BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
IPO
Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv
July 22, 27

breathlessness, even though the tempi were not rushed, did not contribute to the work's force and energy.

The transition from the third to the fourth movement was thoughtfully built up, but did not achieve a really explosive climax. The Fifth's sum total was consequently just a little too pretty and not monumental as expected.

The *Leonore* Overture No. 2 was appropriately theatrical, attempting to compensate with volume what it lacked in tension.

Maria Joao Pires, the soloist in Piano Concerto No. 2, played with utmost clarity and an incisive touch that was delightfully soft in the quiet passages. Each note was meticulously polished and rounded, and phrases took on a song-like quality.

The conductor committed discourtesy toward the audience, however, by rudely starting the second and third movements without any rest, cutting short the time-honored custom of coughing between movements. *Ury Eppstein*

IT IS no secret that the IPO plays more than a few mediocre concerts every season. Even with music director Zubin Mehta on the podium, the orchestra had more than occasional downs.

But this time, it was Mehta and the IPO at their very best and the result was a series of concerts that will long be remembered for their pure musicianship and artistry.

Mehta does not aim at interpreting Beethoven here. Instead, he lets the music speak for itself and Beethoven sings and comes alive as if by magic.

The "Pastoral" (Sixth) Symphony was a study of beauty in content and form alike, a very beguiling reading that took the audience on a pleasant journey through the magnitude of nature.

The Ninth Symphony, that heroic opus which heralds everlasting peace and brotherhood, was presented in a most dramatic reading that had poetry and austerity written all over it. Mehta effortlessly drew out every nuance and the orchestra was on the whole in great form.

The IPO's very best pianist, Maria Joao Pires, wove tender poetry into the Fourth Piano Concerto, mesmerizing the audience in the simplicity yet deep refinement of her presentation.

And even though Rudolf Buchbinder's reading of the Fifth ("Emperor") Piano Concerto reminded one more of a Mozart nocturnal serenade than the titan in Beethoven, his mastery of the keyboard was quite amazing.

In the middle of the performance of the Ninth Symphony someone called from the audience: "Bravo maestro, you are better than ever." And he was right. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
IPO
Jerusalem International Convention Center
July 26

ZUBIN MEHTA presented a busy-sounding Fifth Symphony in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 9, a segment of its Beethoven Festival.

In this festival's crammed schedule it seems as if Mehta cannot even find time to breathe between phrases. The resulting

The bitter side of heroism



(From left) Alex Peleg, Amir Kriaf, Ruti Goldberg and Norman Issa star in 'Protected Space' in Haifa. (Eyal Landesman)

THEATER ROUNDUP
By Nissim Dotan

This application of a modern English morality play (Hebrew by Oren Ne'eman, set by Eli Sinai) to the Israeli scene has a familiarly bitter thrust. It depicts the disastrous impact that fast, financial fixes from slick and sleazy marketeers have on the personal lives of a couple of budding yuppies. The drama of their vulnerability, of the collapse of personal relations and human values in the face of ruthless and unscrupulous promotional techniques is somewhat drawn out but still comically and poignantly portrayed in this compelling *mise en scene* of Sinai Peter.

With Amir Kriaf as an embryonic houseowner of naif and nervous disposition; and Norman Issa, the smooth, seasoned operator out to entrap him, the production enjoys the highly accomplished performances of two very talented young actors. They are supported by Ruti Goldberg as the practical, forever skeptical female; and Alex Peleg, appropriately typecast as the benign, big-mouthed supersalesman with the heavy tread of a crushing bore.

GVULOT is a dark, nightmarish drama about soldiers in a deserted outpost in Lebanon where they lie concealed after the rest of their unit has been trapped in an ambush. The play imposes on the spectator a grilling identification with the fears, phobias, butchery, hazards and horrors of front-line fighters in the face of death.

The staging, the acting and the writing evoke the whole range of battle trauma, morals and morality with hair-raising verisimilitude.

The lighting by Amir Brenner, the set by Erez Yaniv and the music by Daniel Solomon support a cast of deeply motivated actors: Gal Hoiberger, Yoram Toledano, Arik Yaffe, and Oren Yadgar.

The graphic evocation of the black and bitter side of war heroics brings the audience to grips with the unspeakable truth about the reality of combat, killers and the killed.

PROTECTED SPACE
'Merhav Mugan'
Based on *Chimps* by Simon Block.
Haifa Municipal Theater at Wadi Salib

BOUNDARIES
'Gvulot'
Written and directed by Shmulik Levy
Haifa Municipal Theater at Wadi Salib

Mancini meets Beefheart

In Tune



By David Brinn

The bizarre quality of the Coen Brothers movies also crosses over into the music that accompanies their twisted scripts. The soundtrack to *The Big Lebowski* is no exception, with selections zoomed in from all over the musical map. In the Coens' universe, Henry Mancini and Nina Simone sit comfortably next to Captain Beefheart and Yma Sumac.

Appropriately, that great subversive Bob Dylan leads off the disc and the film with one of his most optimistic and straightforward pop songs. "The Man in Me" from 1970's *New Morning* is a kick to hear – Dylan lightheartedly and tunefully crooning a "la-la" chorus like he doesn't have a care in the world.

Other endearing oddities include the '60s classic "Just Stopped in (To See What Condition My Condition Was In)." Kenny Rogers, with The First Edition, proves that he once had a rock & roll heart before he discovered the gold paved in the middle of the road.

And what movie about the loony bin called Los Angeles would be complete without a rendition of "Hotel California," performed here in the spirited flamenco version by The Gipsy Kings?

The only complaint about this satisfying souvenir of a memorable movie is the absence of Shawn Colvin's definitive version of Elvis Presley's "Viva Las Vegas" which graced the film's closing credits.

THE BIG LEBOWSKI
Various Artists
(Helicon)

CROWN OF JEWELS
Randy Scruggs
(Hed Artzi)

THE SOUNDS OF AFRICA
Various Artists
(NMC)

Ethan and Joel, just because you guys are obsessed with *shomer shabbes* doesn't mean you have to ignore this talented Gentile. Why offer such great appetizers without presenting the main course?

RANDY Scruggs's long career as part of one of country music's royal families reaches its pinnacle here in the aptly titled *Crown of Jewels*. Scruggs simply called some of the artists that he'd always wanted to work with and asked them to collaborate on new songs and old standards. The result is a stunning, star-studded collection of crisp country and rock as refreshing as a dip in a cold, clear creek.

Current country faves like Vince Gill, Travis Tritt and Trisha Yearwood mingle with seasoned veterans like Bruce Hornsby, Roseanne Cash, John Prine and Emmylou Harris. The tone changes on each track, but Scruggs's enthusiasm and sincerity neatly tie all the strings together.

The Prine and Scruggs duet on Steve Goodman's "City of New Orleans" breathes new life into the old warhorse. One instrumental workout with Hornsby, "Travel On" achieves the intensity of the Allman Brothers, circa "Jessica" and "Ramblin' Man," while another featuring legendary patriarch Earl Scruggs rivals the original Flatt and Scruggs guitar/banjo workout. The Harris and Cash tracks bring together sweet harmonies and ringing guitars, and even the old Pure Prairie League hit "Amie" makes a surprise and welcome appearance courtesy of Tritt.

The disc includes extensive photos of the sessions and remarks about the making of each track. Whatever the reasons which prompted Scruggs to take on this project, here's hoping this won't be the last jewel in his crown.

THE SOUNDS of Africa is a mixed bag of dance tracks you'd expect to hear at secular weddings and bar mitzvas, soulful pop, and a smattering of ethnic Africa.

Familiar names include Ladysmith Black Mambazo, who reprise their duet with Paul Simon's "Homeless" that originally appeared on 1986's *Graceland*.

The dance tracks are virtually indistinguishable, except for their cloying appeal. The sounds of Africa are definitely worth looking into, but this isn't the place to start.

"Stan Mack achieves a pleasing balance of information and entertainment - this is no small accomplishment"
S.T. Meravi - The Jerusalem Post

IBN G'VIROL, MEET GROUCHO MARX

It's both a comment on the times and on the state of the Jews that a publisher feels free to offer a history of Jewish civilization in cartoon form.



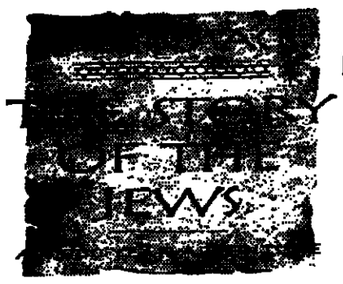
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Not a police state

How a nation treats those who are in its prisons is one of the most telling tests of the level of observance of human rights.

Short of execution, denying the freedom of an individual is the power of government with the greatest potential to cause grave harm to the average citizen. Abuse of this power cannot be tolerated in an enlightened country.

This is especially true with regard to those who are merely suspected of a crime. When the individuals in question are children, the abuse of their basic rights raises serious questions as to the judgment of the law enforcement system.

Two Kiryat Arba minors, aged 15, who are being detained by the General Security Service, were denied legal counsel for over a week. The two youths, along with two others who were arrested on Sunday, are suspected of setting fire to Arab property and belonging to an underground organization. In addition to being interrogated without recourse to legal advice, they also were not allowed to meet or speak with their parents, nor, according to their attorney Naftali Wertzberger, were they interrogated by juvenile officers or advised of their right to remain silent.

Because the GSS claims that all information pertaining to the case is highly sensitive and confidential, hearings have been held behind closed doors.

What the minors are suspected of is certainly reprehensible, especially given the existing tensions between Jews and Arabs in Hebron. Setting fire to cars, fields and fruit stands belonging to Hebron Arabs not only destroys hard-earned property and the potential livelihood of many, it risks touching off widespread and violent confrontations. Such acts, and any organized conspiracy to commit them, clearly cannot be tolerated.

As serious as the charges are, however, they cannot justify the denial of citizens' basic rights.

Nor should distinctions in these matters be made between Israelis and Palestinians, or between residents of Israel and the West Bank. Those who would now step forward to protest the treatment of the Kiryat Arba youths on moral and legal grounds need to object just as equally when, so often happens, Palestinian suspects are similarly denied the right to legal counsel while under routine interrogation.

Being arrested and interrogated is a frightening and disorienting experience for anyone. When minors are involved, the trauma can be even worse, especially since they are likely to be less familiar with their rights. Individuals detained under such difficult conditions while being denied knowledge of their rights or legal counsel have been known to crack under pressure and confess to acts they did not commit.

Indeed, the Kiryat Arba teenagers have reportedly been told that they would be permitted to see their parents only if they would submit to a polygraph test. This was clearly an attempt to break them, as such tests are inadmissible as evidence in courts. It is for this reason that an international consensus against such practices has developed among advanced nations.

The only circumstance under which such pressures could morally be permitted is what has come to be called "the ticking time-bomb" situation, in which a detained individual is likely to be concealing knowledge of an impending terrorist attack threatening the lives of others. Only in that case, when the clear and present need to save lives takes precedence over all else, can certain forms of pressure on detainees be allowed, to obtain as much information as possible from them before the imminent attack occurs.

Short of that, the law must clearly enshrine the right of all arrested citizens to remain silent, to be informed of their rights and to be questioned in the presence of an attorney. What is perhaps most disturbing in the case of the Kiryat Arba youths is that it highlights the fact that Israeli law does not do so.

According to Rinat Kitai, a lawyer at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, both the police – with the permission of a district court – and the GSS have the right to deny counsel to suspects in security crimes for up to 21 days. This is under Israeli law, and is by no means restricted to the West Bank or Gaza Strip. Any Israeli residing in Ra'anana or Tiberias can, under the current law, be detained and interrogated without recourse to legal advice if he is suspected of what is deemed a security crime.

When the GSS, as opposed to the police, is involved, the situation is even worse. Tomer Seffer, spokesman for the B'tselem human rights organization, notes that as long as no law delimiting GSS activities has been passed, it retains extraordinary powers in all matters involving arrest, detention and interrogation. Laws regarding the rights of arrested minors, such as their right to be interrogated solely by juvenile officers, do not obligate the GSS, according to Seffer, despite clear directives on this in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Israel signed in 1990.

Swift action must be taken, at a number of levels, to prevent a recurrence of such cases. Passage of a law carefully defining the powers and limitations of the GSS is imperative. The law permitting detention without legal counsel needs to be revised to limit its application to certain very clearly defined cases. And finally, supervision of the enforcement of these laws should be thorough and vigilant. This is not a police state.



Defensive concept

SHLOMO GAZIT

It is no coincidence that debates on several key issues relating to Israel's security, the structure of the IDF and the composition of its forces have recently flared up almost simultaneously.

In recent years, several important strategic developments have combined to justify a reexamination of the conventions which have accompanied us over the last fifty years. Some of these changes affect the whole world, others are specific to Israel. They include:

- The revolutionary change in the structure of armies in Western nations, reflected in a reduction of forces, the abolition of mandatory military service and the establishment of small, high-caliber, professional armies.
- The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, with the ensuing revolutionary change in global priorities.
- Dramatic developments in military technology, the introduction of weapons of mass destruction with launching facilities which have a range of hundreds and thousands of kilometers, and are capable of reaching their target with great accuracy.
- Israel's involvement in a political process aimed at resolving the Israel-Arab conflict. At the same time, there is a danger that this process will deadlock, thus leading to violent confrontation.
- Arab and Moslem procurement, development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction together with launching facilities, which place Israel in their range.
- A stepping up of Palestinian-Moslem terror against Israel. The severity of such attacks allows these operations to influence and change chosen strategic policy.
- The internal argument in Israel as to whether the country still requires an army of its present proportions. Does the IDF need to draft haredi yeshiva students, particularly when the same obligations are not imposed on Arabs who are Israeli citizens? Is the time ripe for abolishing compulsory military service in Israel, as well as the reserve forces?

FOCUSING on just a few of these issues, there is undoubtedly a need to reassess and update the IDF's defense concept in view of the above new challenges, particularly developments in military technology.

Nevertheless, the comparison between the political-strategic situation of the West since the Second World War and the end of the Cold War, and the strategic challenges which confront Israel, has no foundation and ignores the reality of our region.

The West is no longer troubled by a military threat from its immediate neighbors, nor does it have to cope with serious internal security problems.

But following the Western model, many people here mistakenly assume Israel simply has no need for a conscripted army and, by implication, no need for a large reserve force. This, however, ignores the assignments currently carried out by our defense forces, assignments for which modern technology has no solution.

- The Lebanese border. Although we are involved in a debate over the need for our continued presence in the security zone, no one disputes the need to continue to maintain considerable military forces on this front.
- Israel invests tens of thousands of soldiers in on-going defense assignments, protecting settlements in the territories and in terror prevention. Sadly, the scope of the forces allocated to such objectives only increases from one year to the next. What hope and substitute does modern technology offer as a solution to these problems?
- The weapons of mass destruction possessed by the Arabs and Moslem world now threaten Israel as a whole, and particularly our major population centers.

If, God forbid, we should be attacked, the Home Command will require large-scale forces in order to handle the resulting situation. Once again, modern technology will not relieve this command of the tasks of evacuating the population and rescuing victims.

- Let us also not forget that just eight years ago, the United States faced the challenge of freeing Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. It found no alternative but to concentrate an enormous task force of half a million soldiers, and was only able to force the hand of the Iraqi dictator by moving its land troops deep into Iraqi territory. In this case too, modern technology offered no solution.

As to the argument over drafting haredi yeshiva students, the comparison made between yeshiva students and Israeli Arabs is extremely illogical. Drafting Arabs into the IDF is not the same as drafting haredim. The haredim claim (with some justification) to be the yeast in the dough which is the Jewish population in Israel. In contrast, there are powerful security and ethical reasons against drafting Arab youths into the army.

On the other hand, there are political, security and ethical dangers in continuing the present military exemption of tens of thousands of yeshiva students.

Moreover, those who wear the IDF uniform frequently have to protect those same yeshiva students in their yeshivot in Hebron, Nablus and the outskirts of Bethlehem. This is blatant discrimination and it is only a question of time before we witness a revolt by the underdogs.

Unfortunately, an answer to Israel's strategic problems involves more a fundamental change in the nature of the Middle East conflict than a change the face of the IDF. But such a change in the conflict, I'm afraid, is still a long way off.

The writer is a former head of military intelligence.

The right moment

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

What is certain is that on Aug. 17 it will be officially confirmed that President Clinton has lied, from which it follows that the entire infrastructure of presidential credibility is gone.

Between now and then there will be a wistful suggestion here or there that the meeting between the defendant and the prosecutor will vindicate Mr. Clinton. But in order to believe that, it is necessary to believe that Kenneth Starr is really and truly out of his mind, which he would have to be to bring on the most theatrical confrontation in history with an unloaded pistol.

The only line suggested for Mr. Clinton, in one sophisticated circle, is: "Yes, it's true I lied. But that is what gentlemen do when a woman is involved." Come to think of it, it takes someone of Clinton's stature as a liar to pursue that line. ("Now that it is known that there was this irregularity, I don't feel under any continuing obligation to shield Miss Lewinsky.")

But what has to happen between now and then is a geological alteration in political alignments. The president is in the nature of things the leader of his party. But the need to acknowledge presidential political authority ends when personal political survival is in question. It isn't only a question, for ranking establishment Democrats, of prevailing in their campaigns. It becomes a question of the right kind of pride: the quiet authority that, at critical moments in one's moral lifetime, one wants to safeguard.

The easy way, and most will take it, is to do nothing. Prominent Democrats can lean on the subterfuge that one doesn't know the whole story and mustn't therefore act recklessly or with disregard of procedure. What is open is both a challenge and an opportunity to do better than that – by one's conscience, and for the public good.

A responsibility and an opportunity for a Democratic leader

IN MARCH 1974, Sen. James Buckley concluded that the mire that had overcome President Richard Nixon had resulted in the immobilization of the presidency. He addressed Mr. Nixon, counseling his resignation from office.

Some time after, reflecting with a touch of rueful amusement on the political storm that followed this defection from orthodox Republican policy, he said that mail received in his office was addressed to him either as Judas or as Benedict Arnold. Two large baskets for clerical convenience were thus designated. Not very long after, a committee of inquiry recommended impeachment to the House of Representatives, and a few weeks after that, President Nixon took my brother's advice.

There is an analogous opening here for a Democratic figure who seeks to distance the Democratic Party from the awful mess in which the president has put it.

Some groping in that direction have been made. It was pre-Lewinsky that Leon Panetta, who had served as chief of staff at the White House, said plaintively that the time had come for Mr. Clinton to speak out – on the Paula Jones matter. In mid-week after the Aug. 17 tocsin sounded, three loyalists on a single television program confessed, however muted their formulations, their misgivings.

George Stephanopoulos, for so long so ardent on the subject of Mr. Clinton, spoke a deadly line. "He should do what he should have done six months ago – come forward now to tell the truth, take responsibility." What he did not say, or reflect publicly on, was what are the consequences of the truth, if it is not what Mr. Clinton averred it to be in January, both in a press conference and at a legal deposition.

It is, to repeat, both a responsibility and an opportunity for a Democratic leader. Rep. Richard Gephardt is strikingly equipped both to address the Democratic establishment and to seek to protect it. Mr. Gephardt is an all-but-declared candidate for president of the United States. This means he will have to compete with the heir apparent for the nomination, Albert Gore. He has a brilliant opportunity to serve himself and his country: by calling on President Clinton to resign from office.

Gephardt no doubt would prefer to contend against Candidate Al Gore, retiring vice president, than against President Gore, serving out the remainder of President Clinton's term. But the Democratic nomination in the year 2000 could be worthless if the public sees no important voice within the party who was willing to answer the call to duty and honor.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

The court as nanny

EVELYN GORDON

It would be hard to imagine a more unexceptionable decision than last month's High Court of Justice ruling on MK Aryeh Deri's parliamentary immunity.

The court first ruled that the statute of limitations on charges against the Shas leader was frozen from the moment the attorney-general asked the Knesset to lift his immunity so he could be indicted – a technical legal question which only the court could properly have decided. It then threw out two petitions against a Knesset committee's decision to defer its discussion on whether to lift Deri's immunity, since, with the statute of limitations frozen, this decision had no practical impact.

Yet despite this eminently reasonable ruling, the court's decision to hear the petitions at all damaged the norms of public behavior in Israel because it sent the message that the public can afford not to care what its representatives do, secure in the knowledge that someone else will play watchdog.

Before any Knesset member can stand trial, the Knesset must lift their parliamentary immunity. The House Committee, however, decided to postpone a debate on Deri's immunity for three months despite Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's warning that by then, the statute of limitations on his alleged crimes might have expired. Unless the court decided that the statute of limitations was frozen, the committee's decision ensured that Deri would never stand trial for his alleged misdeeds.

In any normal democracy, a public outcry would have arisen over the Knesset's decision to protect its own members in defiance of the public interest. The decision would probably also have provoked a long-overdue public debate about the need to reform Israel's immunity law. This law gives our MKs broader protection against standing trial than that enjoyed by members of any other parliament in the world, by stating that they cannot be indicted for any crime at all (except traffic offenses) without the consent of a majority of the Knesset.

However, the public saw no need to demand accountability from its representatives, either in this specific case or regarding the immunity law in general because the court agreed to do the dirty work for them.

Within days of the committee's decision, two good-government groups petitioned the court against it, and the court not only agreed to hear the case, but set up an unusual nine-justice panel to do so (most cases are heard by three justices).

Indeed, the court made its willingness to play the role of moral guardian clear even while rejecting the petitions. The justices, headed by Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, stated in their ruling that had they not concluded the statute of limitations was frozen, they would have had to consider the petitions.

IN a country whose elected representatives too often show contempt for proper norms, the court's rush to fill the breach is understandable. However, it is also very damaging. In the long run, democracy depends on an active, informed citizenry to keep the government in line. An apathetic citizenry is an invitation for the government to abuse its power.

Yet this is precisely what an activist court creates – because once the public becomes accustomed to relying on the court to guard public morality, a statement by the court that a certain case is beyond its purview tends to be seen as a vindication of the act in question. And any court that adheres to the law must declare some cases outside its jurisdiction.

A striking example of the degree to which reliance on the court has become the norm in Israel occurred last year, when Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi lied to the cabinet about Chief Justice Barak's opinion on attorney Roni Bar-On as a potential attorney-general.

Initially, this created a public storm. But once the High Court upheld State Attorney Edna Arbel's decision that this was not a criminal offense, the storm died down. Hanegbi's own party – which should have been trying to oust him as a political liability – claimed that the court had vindicated his action by finding him non-indictable. And the public accepted this judgment.

The court is not unaware of this danger but in its zeal to protect public morality, it has responded by expanding its purview still further. Over the past few years, it has ruled on a host of moral questions, from when someone is unfit to serve as a minister or ministry director-general to when someone is unfit to receive the Israel Prize.

To make such rulings possible, the court has largely ignored the boundaries of the law, instead ruling on any issue where proper norms seem to have been flouted. Yet this is an even worse solution because it means the court has become the new ruling power, whose possible excesses will go equally unchecked by an apathetic nation.

In the short run, the court's failure to intervene would almost certainly result in outrages such as criminals in the Knesset evading justice. Yet in the long run, this would be a price worth paying because it is the only way to persuade the public that if it wants morality in government, it must act for itself.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT KEEPS TOURISTS AWAY?

Sir, – The June 26 article comparing the prices of hotels in Israel with those in Europe, e.g., double room with bath and breakfast: London, Mt. Royal – $210. Jerusalem, Moriah – $254. Rhodes, Olympic Palace – $105. Eilat, King Solomon – $207 was a little unfair. Travel agents have a special tariff for overseas hotel accommodation, thus it is far cheaper to reserve a hotel room in Israel via a European travel agent than it is to make the same reservation when in Israel.

Likewise it is cheaper for an Israeli to book (via an agent), a room in a European hotel than it is to book the same room when in Europe.

In the article the rates were taken from an Israeli agent's Europe hotel tariff and compared with the "nightly rates for foreign tourists in Israel."

Had the reporter taken the rates of hotels in Israel from agents in Europe, she would have found the rates much more competitive, and sometimes even cheaper.

Friends from London get excellent "deals" for a stay in Israel – unfortunately it isn't the hotel rates that dissuade the tourists from visiting this interesting country.

PEGGY SCHWARCZ

Tel Aviv.

KUTTAB'S CONDITIONS

Sir, – Daoud Kuttab makes a number of excellent points in his opinion piece, "(Mis)communicating" (July 23).

For instance: "Communication requires mutual recognition and respect." Agreed, but how can we communicate with the PA while its charter continues to call for Israel's destruction?

Or, "Palestinians are not able to properly communicate through their media." Kuttab, of course, speaks from first-hand experience. When he tried to communicate (by televising a session of the PNC), Yasser Arafat had him tossed in jail!

No, I do not believe the average Palestinian can communicate through their media. I do not believe the average resident of Kalkilya, who lives but one mile from my home, is pleased with the messages of hatred, intifada, and warfare which are being shown to his children on Palestinian television (on programs devoted to children, no less).

I do not believe the average resident of Tulkarm, five miles from my home, is pleased or agrees with the stories printed in the Palestinian press labeling the Holocaust a myth.

I would counsel Kuttab to clean up his house before he seeks to clean up mine, but I realize that is fruitless, as his prior incarceration clearly demonstrates, because of the tyrannical conditions under which he lives.

MICHAEL D. HIRSCH

Kochav Yair.

GENERALS AND RABBIS

Sir, – I read with interest, and a degree of agreement, to the July 24 op-ed piece by Moshe Arens. His theme – the desirability of keeping retired generals out of politics – is doubly correct if applied equally to another group of the politically inclined with even less experience in democracy and the business of politics.

I refer to the profusion of rabbis and people controlled by them whose sole agenda appears to be the acquisition of power and the accompanying perquisites which accompany. No political training appears to be required and a minimal knowledge of biblical geography seems to be enough to give this new breed of power masters what ever their mentors require.

Who ever they are and from whatever branch of religious background they appear it seems they all work for the Almighty busily interpreting His requirements. If readers look again at the Arens article and replace the emphasis he places on the army and the ex-generals with the yeshivot and the rabbis, the emphasis of the piece is better placed.

ERNEST MARKHAM

Kibbutz Yizre'el.

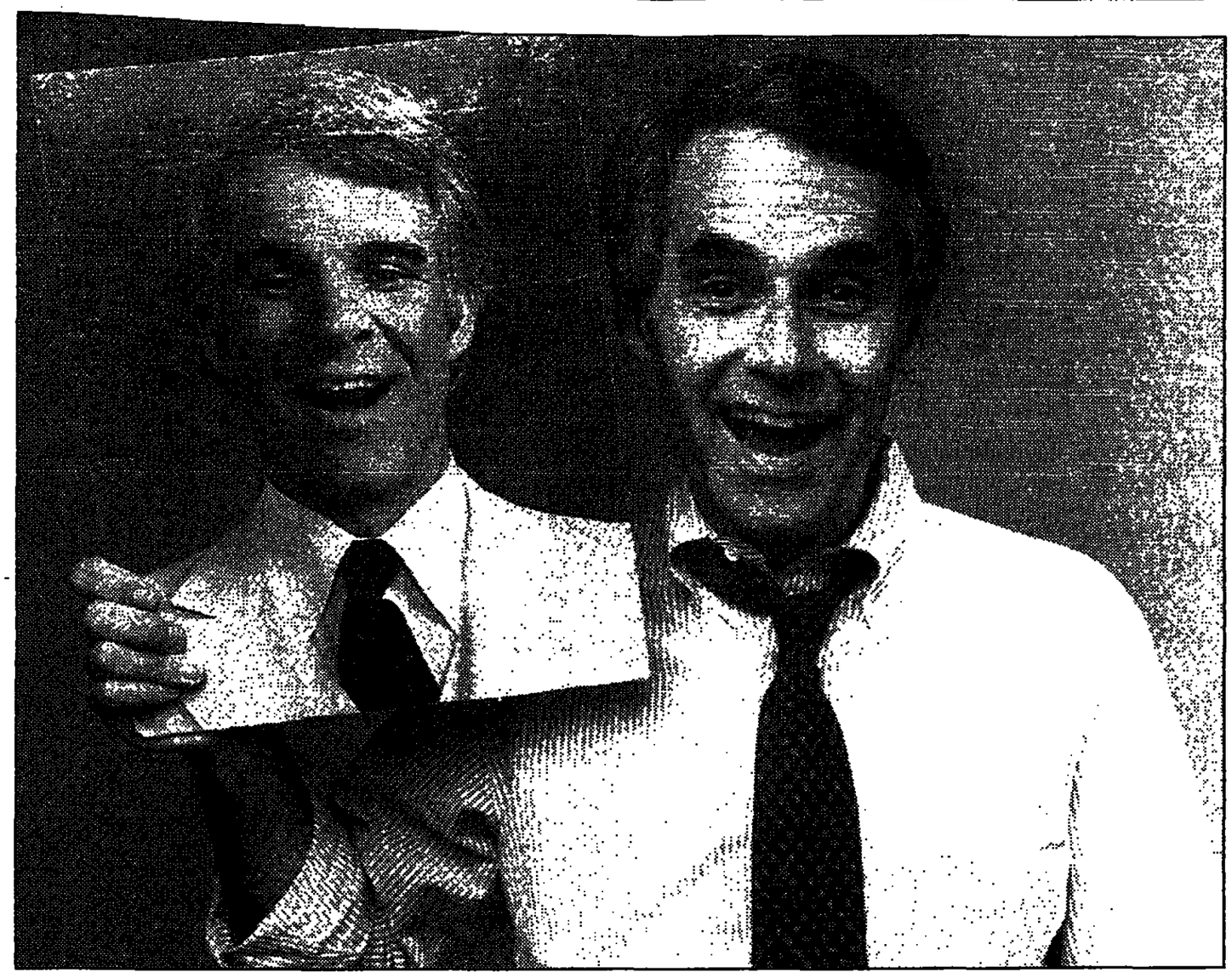
FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On August 4, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that in addition to Abraham Stavsky, who had been charged with the murder of Dr. Chaim Arlosoroff and who was apparently recognized from 10 photographs as the taller of the two assailants by the victim's widow, Yehuda Mintz, Zvi Rosenblatt and other persons were charged with participating in the conspiracy.

50 years ago: On August 4, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that there were 11 victims of the Arab sniping in Jerusalem since the cease-fire. A long list of Arab violations was submitted to UN. The Arabs have lost the war militarily, foreign observers cabled from Jerusalem. They wrote that the only result of the Arab attacks was to bring upon themselves the burden of 300,000 refugees who disrupted the Arab economy and impeded their military operations.

Alexander Zvielli

هكذا من الاصل



Two wild and crazy guys: Rabbi Bob Alper holding a picture of fellow funny man and look-alike Steve Martin.

Rolling in the aisles

He's the Jackie Mason of New England: an ex-rabbi who makes his living as a stand-up comedian. Sue Fishkoff meets a man who feels he accomplishes more at a nightclub than a pulpit

Like most rabbis, Bob Alper strives to move people spiritually. Only Alper thinks he does that better through a joke than a sermon.

The 53-year-old stand-up comedian traded in his congregational pulpit for the comedy circuit about the same time he left Philadelphia for the tiny, most decidedly non-Jewish village of East Dorset, Vermont.

"There are maybe 6,000 Jews in Vermont, except during ski season, when the Jewish population jumps to 1.7 million," quips Alper. "In summer, there's an invasion of Jews from Florida," he says. "There's this Gentile woman who shepherds them all around Killington – of course, she's taller than any of them."

Alper likes to introduce himself as the only practicing clergyman who does stand-up comedy – intentionally. He's not the first American rabbi to give up preaching for joke-telling; Jackie Mason did the same. But Jackie Mason never moved to Vermont. The lack of knishes alone might have killed him.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Bob Alper received his rabbinic ordination at Hebrew Union College in 1972, and his doctorate in ministry from the Princeton Theological Seminary.

In 1986, after serving as a congregational rabbi for 14 years, he entered a Jewish Comic of the Year contest in Philadelphia. Out of 100 contestants, he came in third – "Right behind a chiropractor and a lawyer," he claims.

A few nightclub gigs followed, then some talk show appearances, and pretty soon, Alper found himself a pretty hot item on the comedy/lecture circuit.

By 1990 he had given up his pulpit in Philadelphia, moved to Vermont with his wife and children, and was making his living as a full-time comedian, with a little rabbinics on the side (High Holiday services, weddings and funerals).

He's published two books: in 1995, a collection of cartoons called, *A Rabbi Confesses*; and, a year later, *Life Doesn't Get Any Better Than This: The Holiness of Little Daily Dramas*, a book of inspirational, gently humorous vignettes drawn from his own life.

He's been a guest on ABC-TV's *Good Morning, America*, was called "the Jewish Bill Cosby" by the *New York Post*, writes a weekly humor column that appears in 26 American Jewish newspapers, and does more than 80 shows a year across the US and Canada.

ALPER'S humor is Jewish, certainly. But he loves playing to non-Jewish audiences.

"They're more of a challenge," he insists. "Gentiles are more skeptical than Jews. They see me come out, and they say, 'How can a rabbi make us laugh?'"

When he appears before a "mixed" group of Jews and non-Jews, he starts his routine by showing a series of flash cards that purport to explain basic Jewish terminology the non-Jews need to know to understand his jokes.

"I tell the Jews to talk amongst themselves while I show the cards," he says. "They say things like, 'Passover' on one side, and 'no bread'" on the other."

The first thing that strikes you about Alper's humor is its gentle, almost folksy tone. There's a Garrison Keillor, small-town quality to it. Even without the rabbinic title, his G-rated, "no sex, please" routine is enough to make him an anomaly on the stand-up circuit.

Would his act be as clean if he weren't a rabbi? Probably, he muses. But it's a moot question, because he *is* a rabbi, and he sees his comedy as a logical extension of his ministry.

"There are many ways to get a cheap laugh," he says. "When you have a clean act, and you can still make people laugh, there's a spiritual aspect to it.

"I call it 'internal aerobics' – your body is laughing. It gives you a good feeling, not tainted by guilt. It becomes a healthy kind of spiritual fulfillment."

Laughter's special healing quality is particularly suited to a rabbi's pastoral mission, he says. Very often, people come up to him to say how his books or tapes made them laugh so hard they forgot their own sorrows.

"When I give a sermon, I hope I move people spiritually," he says. "When I make them laugh, I know I have."

IN Anaheim, California, where Alper was entertaining the annual meeting of the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis, a woman tapped him on the shoulder at breakfast.

She told him that she and her husband had tried to conceive for many years, and when she finally got pregnant, she miscarried the day before Rosh Hashana.

"She told me she had to drive home from the doctor's alone, so she put on my tape in the car, and started to laugh," Alper says. "Laughter is healing."

On another occasion, a man told Alper that he and his wife used to listen to Alper's tapes while driving to the woman's chemotherapy sessions. The woman eventually died of cancer, leaving behind four children, but the husband wanted Alper to know how his humor had eased the pain of her final months.

"I don't know if I have words in my counseling skills that would have affected her the way my humor did," Alper says quietly. "When I hear stories like that, I...." His voice trails off.

But not for long. Alper isn't one to linger in sanctimonious self-analysis. He's off and running with the next joke, forever skirting the edge between laughter and tears.

Many of his jokes stem from real experiences. "About 78 percent," he says.

Some of them happened to him, some happened to friends, but he appropriates their stories unashamedly.

Like when he talks about his first trip to Israel in 1969 as a rabbinical student, and he tells a cabdriver in Jerusalem, in his best biblical Hebrew, "Behold, here I descend."

Well, that really happened to one of his friends, but it fits his routine so well!

Other stories are completely apocryphal, like the joke he tells about trying to make a phone call from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, and the tape-recorded voice instructs him to deposit eight phone tokens.

"I say, 'I only have seven,' so the voice sighs and says, 'All right, I'll take seven,'" he quips.

He gathers new material all the time, just from the crazy things that life brings his way. Like the time he flew to Moscow on Lufthansa during Pessah.

"I ordered a kosher-for-Passover meal, and it came in an aluminum tray, wrapped in Saran Wrap, wrapped in aluminum foil, with all the U's and the K's and the rabbis' signatures.

"So I unwrapped the U's and K's and rabbis' signatures, I unwrapped the foil, I unwrapped the Saran Wrap, I opened the aluminum tray, and there was my Passover meal – a bagel," he recounts. "This is a true story."

Another true story is the time – quite recently – when he called a Jewish magazine in the US, and the editor asked for his phone number.

"I told him '1-888-GUFFAWS,' and the guy says, 'I'm sorry, I don't speak Hebrew.'"

Alper's future plans include developing an off-Broadway show, maybe writing another book, and working towards his private pilot's license.

"I took my first flying lesson today," he boasts. "That was my Father's Day present – 10 lessons."

But mostly, he'd just like to do more of what he's already doing, because he's getting a heck of a lot of enjoyment from it.

"I live in the most beautiful place in the world, I have a terrific family, I have my health, and I'm doing what I want.

"So many people dream of writing a book, or doing stand-up. I've had the chance to do both."







Cartoon credits: From 'A Rabbi Confesses,' Finkstrom Productions, 1995

In La-La land Jews continue to keep the faith

The half-million Jews of Los Angeles intermarry less than US Jews in general, and are increasingly likely to come from abroad, according to a new survey. Tom Tugend reports

Los Angeles Jews intermarry less than American Jews in general. Their synagogue membership has risen sharply in the last 20 years, and the overwhelming majority stick with the same spouse for a lifetime.

The Jews in Los Angeles also tend to be wealthier, older, better educated and more likely to be professionals than they were two decades ago, and far outrank non-Jewish Angelenos in all these categories.

So concludes a massive study, two years in the making, by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. The findings are an update of the last survey, conducted in 1979.

The precise number of Jews in the LA federation's jurisdiction is 519,151, according to Dr. Pini Herman, the study's principal investigator.

If other cities and adjoining counties, with their own federations, are included, the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area is home to an estimated 590,000 Jews, making it the second largest Jewish metropolis in the world, after New York.

The 519,151 figure represents a modest increase of 3.6 percent since 1979, nowhere near the booming population spurts of the 1950s and '60s, and reflects the low birthrate and declining Jewish immigration to the city in recent years.

Los Angeles retains its reputation as "The Ellis Island of the West," with only one-third of current Jewish residents born in California, while 21 percent are foreign-born.

By far the largest overseas immigration is from the former Soviet Union (24, 526), Iran (16,782) and Israel (14,170). These numbers are regarded as very low estimates by immigrant groups, according to the *Jewish Journal*. Local Hebrew newspapers estimate the Israeli population at over 100,000.

The survey counted only the actual immigrants, not spouses or children living with a foreign-born parent. Counted in a different way, 52,400 area Jews say they live in a household in which at least one person considers himself or herself an Israeli.

THE GOOD news, at least from the rabbinical perspective, is that currently one-third of LA's Jews belong to synagogues, compared to only one-quarter in 1979.

Reform and Reconstructionist synagogues have particular reason for cheer, as the percentage of households identifying with the two movements grew – at the direct expense of the Conservatives. Orthodox affiliation dropped from 5.2% in 1979 to 4.3% now.

One explanation for the shift, the study found, is that nearly half of Jewish adults in the area switched from their parents' denomination, with the Conservatives and Orthodox suffering the heaviest losses in the process.

Despite assimilation scare stories, 81% of LA Jews are married to other Jews, compared to a national rate of 68%. The statistics for Angelenos marrying in the 1990s, however, are less sanguine, with a 41% intermarriage rate. This is still lower than the 52% rate for the US cited in the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey – a figure that has been widely questioned.

Lurid divorce scandals notwithstanding, 85% of LA Jews marry only once. The divorce rate was substantially higher among those who had married non-Jewish spouses.

ON THE economic front, the Jewish median household income in 1996 was $52,050, about one-third higher than that of the general population.

Doctors and lawyers are heavily represented in the Jewish work force. But in the heartland of the entertainment industry, they are outnumbered by the nearly 10% of gainfully employed Jews who list themselves as writers, artists or entertainers.

Reform and Reconstructionist congregations are growing at the expense of Conservative and Orthodox ones

Women have made impressive strides in the professions, representing 40% of Jewish doctors and dentists, 20% of lawyers and judges, 41% of artists and writers, and 46% of the executives and managers.

For the first time, the federation sought to gauge the number of gay and lesbian Jews. According to the survey, about 1.6% of households defined themselves as gay or lesbian.

As to the always-thorny question as to who should actually be counted as a Jew, the LA study followed the standards set by the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey.

The survey defined as Jews those with at least one Jewish parent and who give their religion as Judaism; those with at least one Jewish parent, but who consider themselves secular; and Jews by choice, whether formally converted or not.

The Los Angeles study is based on more than 69,000 random phone calls, with follow-up detailed questionnaires to 2,640 Jewish households. The study, which cost between $300,000 and $400,000 to produce, has a 3 percent margin of error.

Geniuses R Us

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

It seems that I am falling short in one of my key duties as a Jewish mother and I am genuinely beginning to fear a summons to an official tribunal – the one that takes action against those who prepare chicken soup from a can.

My crime, as I understand it, is failing to do everything I can to ensure that my child grows up to be a genius.

And now, they tell me, it is too late. You see, he is almost two years old. Apparently, to raise a child of dazzling intelligence, you've practically got to start planning while they are still in the womb.

Walk into the infant section of any Shilav baby store. At first, you might think you've gone colorblind. Nearly all of the items for newborns are black, white and red. Forget the pastel-blue bunnies or fuzzy brown bears, they are strictly for parents content to have a kid with an average IQ.

Research has taught us that black, white and red get infant neurons whirring in a proper Albert Einsteinian fashion. And the concept has caught on, bigtime.

You don't see a baby carriage in Tel Aviv without a strip of black-and-white flash cards placed in front of the hapless infant's face. Just a few weeks of life in the cold, cruel world and already the poor kid is under pressure to achieve.

You don't see a baby carriage in Tel Aviv without a strip of black-and-white flash cards placed in front of the infant's face. Just a few weeks into life and already the poor kid is under pressure to achieve

The trend had just started to kick in when my son was born, but frankly, I was unable to detect any difference in his reaction to the black-and-white geometric cube or the pastel fuzzy bunny. And who wants to cuddle a cube before going to sleep?

Besides, the whole flashcard thing reminded me of horrid scenes in 1980s movies like *Baby Boom* and *Parenthood* where competitive parents pushed pictures of the Mona Lisa in front of their toddler's face.

So my kid, poor thing, stared at the trees, the sky and his mother's face during his afternoon strolls. I felt fairly comfortable with this choice.

After all, is being a genius really so wonderful? How many happy, well-adjusted geniuses do we hear about?

But the advertising industry seems determined to remind parents like myself that there is no loftier goal than a child with an inflated IQ.

The official slogan for the infant formula Materna is "Who's Mommy's Little Genius?" The Materna television campaign over the past year has featured brains like Einstein and Microsoft chairman Bill Gates back when they were still in diapers. (Gates's mother chides him as he flips the shutters back and forth. "Bill, stop playing with those windows!")

Finally, just a few weeks ago, we learned that acceptance to Harvard can be guaranteed if babies not only stare at the right flashcards and guzzle the right formula but are also exposed to the proper level of culture.

A recent study in Florida found that brain cells on the right side of the brain multiplied more quickly in infants exposed to classical music – or was it the left side? Naturally the study was immediately seized on for commercial purposes.

A local purveyor of classical music is running full-page advertisements featuring an adorable newborn pointing an accusing finger and saying plaintively "Without my classical music, I'll never be a genius."

The ad proudly tells us about the study, driving us to buy Bach, Beethoven and Mozart designed especially for the younger set.

Unfortunately for my son, his mind has already been corrupted by useless nursery rhymes and nonsense songs. He wouldn't know Bach from his bottle or Debussy from his diaper. Doomed to intellectual mediocrity? Perhaps.

But although I might be failing as a Jewish mom, I am probably doing Israeli society a service.

With all these tips on developing intelligence gaining such popularity, if the laws of supply and demand pan out we are going to have a surplus of geniuses on our hands.

They'll be lining the sidewalks holding signs, "Will Explain Theory of Relativity for Food."

My kid, on the other hand, will be happily employed at some job that does not require massive brainpower. Or maybe he'll just get by on his looks.



"How many times have you wanted to choke someone because they really deserved it? Here you can do it," says David Morgan, owner of Anger Behind Closed Doors. (Los Angeles Times)

Beating anger to the punch

Mad as hell and not gonna take it anymore? Try punching an inflatable Donald Duck in a soundproof venting room. **Martin Miller** reports on Los Angeles's new venue for relieving stress

From his second-floor office on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, entrepreneur David Morgan has a dream. His dream is that someday whites and blacks, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, and the rest of God's children will take a foam baton in hand and beat the living daylights out of a 5-foot dummy.

Another critical part of the dream is that they'll pay his new business, Anger Behind Closed Doors, for the privilege to pound. For less than $10 a session, clients can enter one of two padded, sound-retaining, "venting rooms," where they can scream, kick, punch and swing their way to better mental health, Morgan says.

"How many times have you wanted to choke someone because they really deserved it? And, of course, you can't do it," said Morgan, a fit 52-year-old resident of West Los Angeles. "But here you can do, say, feel what you want."

Morgan believes that if people spent just a few minutes every week in one of his padded rooms, the world would be a much happier place. Instead of road rage, physical violence and other inappropriate expressions of anger, people would be more likely to work out their frustrations constructively by letting off a little steam, he adds. And for that, there's little that compares to clubbing a dummy or smacking around an inflatable Goofy or Donald Duck punching bag, Morgan says.

While the point of his 15,000-square-foot facility is to take the gloves off, Morgan makes clear there are still rules. To ensure that anger is released and not merely recycled, he coaches beginners on how to get the best results. "I don't want people to just go bananas in there," says Morgan, who left the construction business last year to start the company. "Otherwise, you leave the same way you came in." He instructs each client to tie his or her physical acts to a specific angry thought. Thoughts like "the boss yelled at me" or "my girlfriend broke up with me" power most of the thrashing that occurs in the venting room, Morgan says.

Morgan believes that if people spent just a few minutes every week in one of his padded rooms, the world would be a much happier place

Having only just opened in June, and with a limited advertising budget, business hasn't been booming, so to speak. In total, about 40 people have tried out the venting rooms, with only about three or four regular customers. One recent afternoon found 39-year-old Prather Jackson face-to-face with the green dummy.

Jackson, editor and publisher of three community newspapers that carry advertisements for the facility, says he was eager to get out his frustrations with the newspaper business. After a few moments of raining down blows upon the dummy, Jackson broke one of the foam batons. (Not to worry, Morgan says, a baton is destroyed every week.)

Like most beginners, a sweaty Jackson emerged after less than five minutes of swatting. "It felt like an eternity in there," says Jackson. "It's physical, but it's also very therapeutic."

After acting out their anger in the venting rooms, clients then unwind in the facility's "thought and relaxation area." The area consists of four private booths in which clients listen to soothing music through headphones before heading back out to the mean city streets.

In addition to the venting and relaxing stations, there are also anger-management sessions hosted by Morgan in his two classrooms. Morgan has no formal anger-management training but, rather, relies on his "life observations," he says. He also rents out one of his five counseling rooms to therapists and his clients. "People said I was crazy to try this," Morgan says. "But there's so much stress out there ... so much."

(Los Angeles Times)

Remain true to who you are

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie,

I work in an office which is predominantly male. Most of the employees, as well as the managers, are men. I have been promoted twice since I began working there, so I can't point to any real male chauvinism when it comes to the actual work, but there is an undercurrent which is upsetting me to the point of making me cry myself to sleep at night.

This last promotion was given to me by the manager of the company, and my direct boss seems to resent me for it: I was not his choice for the position, and he doesn't make a secret of his low opinion of my abilities. Everything I do is examined under a microscope by him, as though he's just waiting for me to slip up somewhere.

I know I am doing a good job – though I'm still learning the ropes – because I have gotten good results.

The problem is that I never get any positive feedback from my boss.

When I complained to a friend at the office about this, he told me to stop seeing this "through women's glasses": that this boss doesn't give positive feedback to anyone. He told me that if I want to be a professional, I'm going to have to stop taking every little thing to heart.

But I can't help it, and I wanted to know how I can toughen myself up. Should I talk back to my boss? What if this backfires? Should I try to have a "heart-to-heart" talk with him about how I feel? I don't know what to do.

Weepy Worker
Tel Aviv

Dear Weepy,

The way you express your ill ease in the face of a disapproving boss – by crying yourself to sleep at night – perhaps is not characteristic of "male" behavior, but the fact that you need positive feedback is universally human. The men in your office may not wear this need on their sleeves, but this doesn't mean that they are not experiencing similar feelings – they just express them differently.

When your friend told you not to take the boss's attitude towards you personally – that he doesn't give anybody positive feedback – he was probably telling this to himself. For all you know, he and the other men in the office, instead of weeping into their pillows, have ulcers or chronic back pain. The fact that you are capable of looking your distress in the face, and giving it direct expression in the form of tears, is actually a gift, not a curse.

But your question of how best to deal with it is complex. Trying to force yourself into changing what comes naturally to you is probably not the solution. Instinctively you know this, or you wouldn't have asked whether this tactic might backfire.

Imagining that the behavior of others is worth emulating, as a way of achieving the results you believe they are achieving, is inherently problematic. Far better is to remain completely true to who you are; and, rather than wasting precious energy on viewing your traits and inclinations negatively, you would do well to embrace them. After all, those traits landed you two promotions since you began working for this company.

Regarding the heart-to-heart chat with your disapproving boss: if this is something you feel compelled to do, you should do it. But do not do it with the expectation that it will cause your boss to change his attitude or behavior. This is particularly so if he harbors resentment over management's selection of you for the position he had in mind for someone else. Only do it if it will help you unburden yourself. Your boss may or may not respond as you'd hoped. But at least you will have given him the opportunity to do so. And it may even have an effect on your tear ducts.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in* In Jerusalem *and in* City Lights *on Fridays.)

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Yehoram Gaon (Efraim Kilshtok)

Miami seems to be the destination for spokespeople who are a nuisance but too valuable to dispense with altogether. Soon after **Gideon Patt** became minister of tourism almost a decade ago, he dispatched controversial spokeswoman **Dvora Ganani** to Miami to head the Israel Government Tourist Office. Miami will soon become the habitat of Prime Minister **Binyamin Netanyahu's** outgoing media adviser and spokesman **Shai Bazak** who, after grooming his replacement, **Aviv Bushinsky**, will assume the position of consul. Since Netanyahu is also acting foreign minister for as long as **David Levy** decides not to re-enter the government, facilitating the switch was relatively easy. Bazak, widely known as "The National Denier," denied almost until the last moment that he was leaving his post.

WHILE many Sephardim rushed to condemn Labor MK **Ori Orr** for thoughtless remarks, one Sephardi politician, entertainer and broadcaster took a different stand. Singer, actor and Jerusalem City Council member **Yehoram Gaon**, who has a weekly Friday radio program in which he comments on the news of the week, characterized what Orr had said as stupidity which should have been treated as nothing more than that, but which unfortunately fell into the hands of politicians. Gaon also hinted that it was high time that Sephardim and the Oriental communities in general got rid of the chip on their shoulder and stopped complaining that they were being denied opportunities for advancement. He recited a long list of high-ranking academics, mostly of Moroccan origin, noted the number of oriental ministers in the government and the North African backgrounds of both the defense minister and the chief of general staff.



South African Ambassador Frank Land (left) and wine importer Dan Leeor at the launch of South African wines in Israel. (Hanoch Grizitzky)

WIVES of political leaders are increasingly developing into personalities in their own right. For instance, **Ahuva Suissa**, wife of Interior Minister **Eliahu Suissa**, heads Kav Lehaim (Life Line) which supports children with cancer; while **Ofra Elul**, wife of Labor MK **Rafi Elul**, **Ludmilla Tichon**, wife of Knesset Speaker **Dan Tichon**, and **Pnina Ramon**, wife of Labor MK **Haim Ramon**, are involved with Nitzan, the organization dedicated to helping people with learning disabilities. **Yaffa Deri**, wife of Shas leader **Aryeh Deri**, has taken several social-welfare projects upon herself, not the least important of which is providing satchels, schoolbooks and other educational aids for children from economically deprived families. Despite the legal problems which hang over his head, her husband was on hand last week to encourage her with the distribution in Jerusalem.

INDIAN restaurateur **Reena Pushkarna**, who is known for her exotic and eye-catching clothes, and has recently returned from a visit to her homeland with the latest in Indian couture, has been asked by friends and acquaintances to hold a benefit show of the contents of her wardrobe. Pushkarna is well disposed to doing something for charity, but is reluctant to model the garments herself. She may recruit her beautiful daughter **Serena** for the occasion, or if she's lucky, she may get the cooperation of some of the employees at the Indian Embassy.

ISRAELIS are not generally considered to be great wine drinkers, but a visitor to the spacious garden of South African Ambassador **Frank Land** might have doubted this when watching the rate of consumption at a launch of South African wines. Despite the intense heat, guests were more intent on wine than water. According to Land, South African wines are able to compete with Italian, French, Romanian, American, Chilean and Australian wines currently available in Israel. In case that sounds biased, it was confirmed by importer **Dan Leeor** of Scottish Trading, one of the country's largest importers of alcoholic beverages. Leeor was not only enthusiastic about South African wines but also about the ambassador, who he said is doing more than most other envoys here to promote the wines of his home country. Absent from the happy hour party was the ambassador's popular and vivacious wife **Maatchen** who was in New York where, as the head of the diplomatic effort on behalf of Hadassah in Israel, she had been invited to address a Hadassah conference. The visit also gave her the opportunity to catch up with old friends. Her husband's last posting before coming to Israel had been as deputy head of South Africa's diplomatic mission to the United Nations. Although he has since been back to the Big Apple on more than one occasion, it was her first visit there in five years.

POLITICAL activist and would-be Jerusalem city councillor **Yosefa Steiner** was offered the No. 3 slot on the non-partisan list of mayoral contender **Elisha Peleg**. When Steiner asked for the second slot, Peleg, who had already concluded a deal with **Avi Cassuto**, apologized, saying that because he personally was identified with Likud, he had to have someone identified with Labor as his No. 2. "Take me," countered Steiner. "I'm not only a member of Labor, I'm also a woman," meaning that Peleg could get two electoral advantages for the price of one. Peleg agreed without feeling that he had done anything amiss to Cassuto. "I can afford to agree," he explained. "Her party colleagues will put pressure on her and she won't join my list anyway." A few minutes later, Steiner bumped into **Shimon Shetreet**, who heads the One Jerusalem list which has been endorsed by Labor. When she asked him for the No. 2 slot, he smiled, but shook his head. "I can't," he said without offering an explanation. Now that a group of Labor renegades headed by **Danny Bonfil** and **Haim Cohen** have threatened to run a rival list to that of Shetreet's, it will be interesting to see on whose, if anyone's, list Steiner will eventually run.

AT the traditional Tisha Be'av protest demonstration opposite the US Consulate in west Jerusalem, Moledet leader **Rehavam Ze'evi** temporarily halted his firebrand address to embrace a woman who had mounted the makeshift stage. Introducing her to the crowd, he said, "This is **Esther Pollard**, the wife of our brother **Jonathan** who has languished in prison for 14 years." Although the demonstration was primarily to reaffirm that Jerusalem will never again be divided, it was also utilized to demand once more, on the eve of his birthday, the release of Jonathan Pollard, whose sentence for passing secrets to a friendly country is harsher than those meted out to Americans who passed secrets to enemies of the US. Ze'evi also had some scathing words to say about people of Jewish origin in the US State Department "who don't understand the meaning of Tisha Be'av." While references to **Madeleine Albright** were veiled, Ze'evi did not hesitate to name **Dennis Ross** and **Martin Indyk**, noting in the latter case that when he served as ambassador here, his embassy was in Tel Aviv and not in the capital. Ze'evi's opinion of Indyk could never be described as high, and during Indyk's term of duty in Israel, Ze'evi publicly insulted him.

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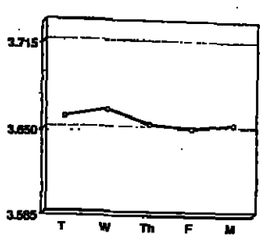
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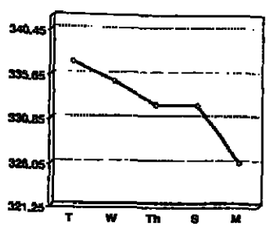
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in brief

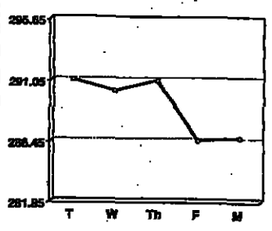
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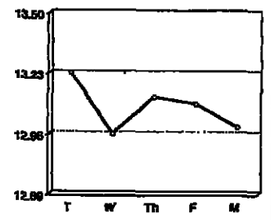
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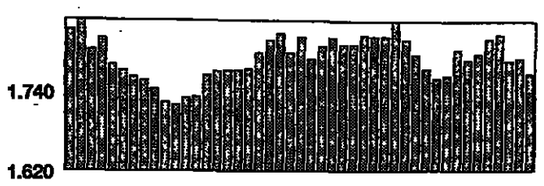
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OIL
$ per barrel of brent crude

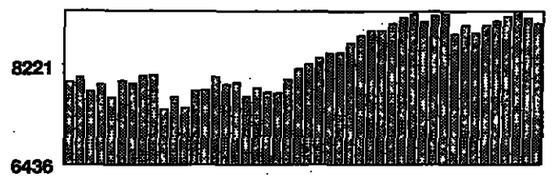


DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



July 1997 – July 1998

DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



July 1997 – July 1998

July foreign currency reserves rise $57m.

Foreign currency reserves rose $57 million to $21.379 billion in July, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday. The change was caused by increased foreign currency revenues at the central bank, though these were offset to some extent by government spending in foreign currency. *David Harris*

Diamond exports down 12% in July

Diamond exports totaled $443 million in July, down 12 percent from $504m. a year earlier, the Industry and Trade Ministry said yesterday.

From the beginning of the year, diamond exports are down 17%, mostly due to a sharp drop in exports to Southeast Asia. Imports of rough diamonds are down 30% this year

Last month, 78% of the exports were to the US, and the remainder divided equally among Belgium, Hong Kong and Japan. Demand from the US last month hit an all-time high, the ministry said. *Nina Gilbert*

Manufacturers: Textile industry needs workers

Some 650 jobs are now available in the textile and clothing industry, Manufacturers Association textile and clothing branch head Yair Rotlevy said yesterday.

A survey of textile factories around the country found jobs available in almost all professions. The factories with jobs available included those in Petah Tikva, Jerusalem, Arad, Tel Aviv, Beersheba, Yavne, Or Yehuda, Kiryat Shmona, Karmiel and Migdal Ha'emek.

The textile industry has rebounded this year after experiencing difficulties. In first half of the year, textile and clothing exports increased 8.5% after retracting for two years.

Late last year, hundreds of textile workers were fired by Kitan, which underwent a reorganization. More jobs were lost in the industry when Gibor-Sabrina was put under receivership and sold to South African investors. *Nina Gilbert*

Mashav CEO Rosen steps down

Surprise move follows owners' decision to change strategy

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Mashav Initiating and Development CEO Yossi Rosen will leave his job toward the end of the year, the holding company announced yesterday.

Mashav's interests include major holdings in the energy and real estate sectors, most notably Nesher, the cement monopoly. In addition, Mashav holds a 50% stake in cement container operator Ta'avura, a 100% stake in Av-Shal Investment and Trade, and 20% of M.E.E. Gas.

The company said that Rosen, who served as CEO for the last six years, decided to leave following the completion of the sale of Mashav's holdings in Tambour and Granit Hacarmel. He made the decision after Mashav's owners, Koor Industries and Clal Israel, decided to redefine the company's strategy and turn it from an investment company into a holding company.

In a statement, Mashav said that following the change Rosen suggested he step down after the reorganization. Koor and Clal have not yet decided on a new CEO for the company.

Last month Mashav sold 56% of Granit Hacarmel to the Borowitz-Glencore group for $197.2m. Granit, which is the parent company of petroleum company Sonol Israel, also owns Vulcan Batteries and sells other gases and oils through its subsidiaries.

Last May Mashav sold its 20.7% stake in Tambour, Israel's leading paint manufacturer to Discount Investments for $31m.

The sale of Tambour and Granit Hacarmel resulted from an agreement between Koor and Clal, Israel's largest holding companies.

They agreed last April to end their joint control of Mashav. Under the terms of that agreement, Koor raised its stake in ECI Telecom by 10% in return for an option to sell 25% of Mashav to Clal. The deal was in line with the requirements of the Anti-Trust Authority's director-general, who instructed Clal and Koor to reduce their joint holdings.



Welcome aboard
Richard Grasso (right), CEO of the New York Stock Exchange, congratulates Dr. Hasso Plattner (center) and Dr. Henning Kagermann, co-chairmen of SAP AG for being listed on the Exchange for the first time. SAP AG is a provider of enterprise *business software*. (Reuters)

Neeman: Gov't R&D support blocks venture capital

By NINA GILBERT

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday that government support for industrial research and development is preventing venture capital funds from investing in companies here.

"There is much money from venture capital funds which are looking to invest in Israel but don't succeed in finding projects because the government is competing with *them on better terms," he said in an* interview with Army Radio.

"There is a need to enable foreign investors and Israeli investors in venture capital funds to enter this industry," he said.

Neeman's comments come in the wake of Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky's demand for a NIS 500 million boost in funding for research and *development in next year's budget* and amid ongoing discussions between the Treasury and the Chief Scientist's Office on an increase in funding for this year.

Sharansky responded by saying that Neeman is using any tool he can to prove there is no need to boost funding for R&D.

Sharansky said Neeman should meet with venture capital funds on the matter. He would certainly be surprised to find that a necessary condition for venture capital investment in Israel is the fact that the Chief Scientist's Office supports a project, Sharansky said.

A ministry source said Neeman's comments are "absolute nonsense" and show that "he doesn't understand the industry. It shows he doesn't have an explanation for not *giving these funds."*

Chief Scientist Orna Berry said venture capital funds invest more in chief scientist-funded projects and ask those with high risk to first obtain ministry support.

"The only companies that are self-sufficient and can make the R&D investment are large companies. Due to the shortfall in funds companies are canceling projects because on their own they can't take the risk," she said.

In June, the Treasury and Chief Scientist's Office concluded an agreement for an increase of NIS 450 million in funds for this year, but it was not implemented after it was clarified that the increase would not be added to the budget base.

The Chief Scientist's Office says its funds for this year have completely run out and estimates the shortfall at NIS 800 million.

Following criticism

Kolber cuts salary

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Koor Industries CEO Jonathan Kolber has agreed to lower his monthly salary to NIS 195,000 from NIS 300,000, Koor yesterday announced.

Kolber's decision followed well-publicized criticism by various shareholders, most notably Bank Hapoalim, though none would speak on record.

Koor president Danny Biran's salary was also cut, from NIS 185,000 to NIS 150,000, the company said.

In addition, Israel's largest holding company said that the options given to Kolber and Biran will be based on the closing share prices on June's last trading day, thus reversing a previous decision to *grant the two a 10 percent discount.*

Senior officials at Bank Hapoalim, which holds a 22.6% stake in Koor, had expressed discomfort with the original benefits package, which was more generous than that given to Hapoalim's own senior management. Together with Claridge, Kolber holds a controlling stake in Koor.

Kolber will still receive a bonus worth up to eight monthly salaries, basde on earnings.

Edelstein calls for national social council

By DAVID HARRIS

In addition to the newly formed national economic council, the government should also establish a parallel committee that will implement practical measures for job creation throughout the country, Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday.

Speaking to *The Jerusalem Post*, the minister said this national social council should include himself, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai.

"Only just now are we getting to the right policies on the macroeconomic front, spending on infra*structure projects, the lowering of* interest rates, but on the social side we must act immediately," Edelstein said. "I maintain that with the correct investments we can create jobs right away."

Edelstein maintains 10,000 jobs could be created in the coming weeks without having to dig too deeply into the state's coffers. Among the examples he sited:

• The Upper Nazareth District Court presently requires 10 typists, but there is a shortage of trained typists in the area. Training people for the posts will take one month at a cost of NIS 17,000. Yet the Labor *and Social Affairs Ministry will not* run such short courses and the Industry and Trade Ministry says typists are not within its remit.

"With such examples we must be far more flexible," Edelstein said.

• Ahead of the expected rush of tourists in 2000, Edelstein's ministry is presently training 60 Russian speakers to act as tour guides. Most of the trainees are in their thirties and forties.

• There are hundreds of immigrant nurses currently not working in their own fields, yet on the other hand there are many posts available.



Yuli Edelstein (Israel Sun)

"All this requires is a short course ahead of registration and registration," he said.

Rather than paying such citizens' national insurance contributions, the government would benefit far more by using that money to partly fund such courses, Edelstein said.

Tourism, which is the last of the labor-intensive industries which remains profitable, is key to the creation of these jobs, he added.

Edelstein denied that he only is interested in increasing his ministry's spending power in the upcoming debate on the 1999 state budget. He said it does not matter *whether funding is distributed to* his ministry, the Industry and Trade or the Labor and Social Affairs ministries, as long as employment opportunities are created, for all Israelis, including immigrants.

The minister backed up the views of his Yisrael Ba'aliya colleague, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who last week said if there is no real change in the government's fiscal and monetary policies the party will vote against the state budget.

Visa Alpha offers to buy bank depositors' overdrafts

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Visa Alpha, the new credit card provider, will offer bank depositors a one-time option to get credit to repay their overdraft by transfering customers' deficits to their accounts and repaying the debt in 12 monthly installments, company CEO Ya'acov Dior yesterday said.

The company, which started operating yesterday, announced promotional measures aimed at helping *it attract* customers in a market currently dominated by I.C.C. Visa and Isracard.

Dior, the former CEO of I.C.C. Visa, declared that the interest on these payments would be at least 25 percent less than that charged by the commercial banks on overdrafts.

The company, which is jointly owned by the First International Bank of Israel and the Aurek *Group*, said it will offer clients the new credit card free of charge for life.

Dior added that Visa Alpha will offer the new credit cards to clients of all banks and will deliver them directly to the customer's house and not to the bank to be picked up, as is done today by the other credit card suppliers.

In addition, the company will honor the points *earned under a* client's old card, whether it was Visa or Isracard.

Danny Gillerman, chairman of Visa Alpha, said, "At last the competition *in the credit card market* begins. We will break the monopoly of I.C.C. Visa."

I.C.C. Visa CEO Zvi Meshi said that he welcomes the new competitor, and that he is not impressed by the deals it is offering. He said his company will continue to lead the credit card market in the future.

Currently I.C.C Visa holds a 49% chunk of the credit-card market and Isracard holds 44%, while Diner's holds a 4% share and American Express has the remaining 3%.

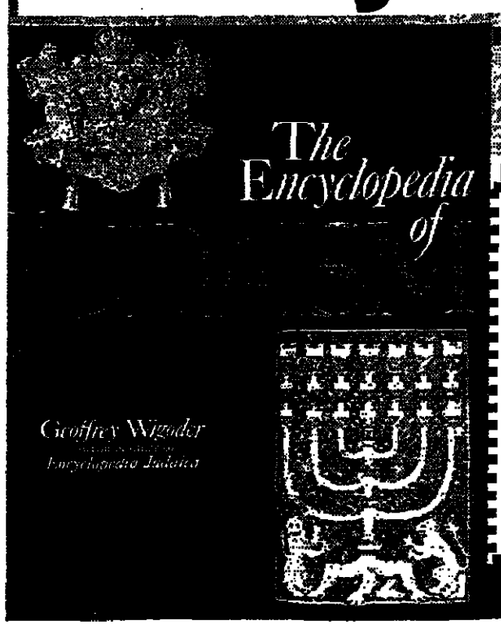
Visa controls Diner's Card and Isracard operates American Express's local business.

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Building Blocks
By Nina Gilbert

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

■ The Haifa Economic Corporation has rented 850 sq.m. in the Matam Advanced Technology Center to three companies. Parametric Technology Israel, a subsidiary of the US company, has moved into a 1,000-sq.m. space, from its former premises of 650 sq.m. Inframetrics Israel, a subsidiary of the US company, has taken a 250-sq.m. space for three years. The company deals with the development and production of thermal imaging systems. Camelot Information Technologies, developing a system for information systems analysis, has rented 260 sq.m. for two years with an option for another two years.

Corporation General Manager Avi Goldenberg noted that the park, whose commercial space is specially suited to the needs of high-tech companies, has become the country's largest research-and-development facility. The prices range from $13.5 to $15 per sq.m a month.

■ In the nearby Carmel Industrial and Business park at the southern entrance to Haifa, three high-tech companies have recently rented space in the BusinessCenter-1, with prices ranging from $9.5 to $10 a month per sq.m. Ramat Silicon, a privately owned start-up company developing measuring devices in the field of automation and robotics, rented a 200-sq.m. space. The company moved to the center from Matam. Orsense, a start-up developing a system for detecting glucose in the blood of diabetics, rented 90 sq.m. Tescom, a company developing a system for inspecting software, moved into a larger, 250-sq.m. office in the complex.

■ A 43-sq.m. store in the prestigious Kikar Hamedina in Tel Aviv has been rented to an Israeli clothing importer for $3,900 per month for three years, with an option for an extension. The store, on the corner of Jabotinsky Street, was rented via the Century 21 agency. The businessman, Jacques Deri, said he would open a store for designer menswear.

RESIDENTIAL
Jerusalem

■ In Ramat Sharett, a five-room penthouse was sold for $370,000 via the Shiran multi-listing service. The 140-sq.m. apartment has a 50-sq.m. terrace and a view. The apartment was sold two weeks after being listed with the service.

■ In Baka, on Rehov Asher, a three-room 70-sq.m. apartment was sold for $185,000. The apartment, on the first floor, was sold after five weeks via Shiran.

■ On Rehov Herzog in Rehavia, a 70 sq.m. two-and-a-half-room apartment was sold for $155,000. The apartment, which has a view, needs renovations. It was sold after four months on the market.

■ In French Hill, a three-room apartment on Rehov Bar Kochva was sold for $170,000. The 80-sq.m. apartment is on the sixth floor in a building with an elevator. The apartment was sold after three months on the market.

Tel Aviv and center

■ Mizrahi and Sons has launched an offer for subsidized mortgages for all apartments in its projects in Rishon Lezion, which includes a cottage community, and in Holon and Rehovot. The company is giving mortgages of up to NIS 500,000 at a rate of 4.9 percent for 10 years. The deal is available until the end of August.

■ In Tel Aviv, a two-and-a-half-room 75-sq.m. apartment on Rehov Tashah, near Kikar Hamedina, was sold for $216,000 via Century 21. The asking price for the property, in fair condition, was 230,000. The apartment has a view, but is on the third floor without an elevator.

■ The Oz Investment Company has sold three apartments in a 15-apartment project on 46 Jerusalem Boulevard in Jaffa for $600,000. The four-story building was bought last year and is being completely renovated, though the character of the structure, including the 3.5-meter high ceilings, will be preserved. An elevator has also been added to the building.

A 100 sq.m. four-room apartment with a 60-sq.m. roof area was sold to a young couple from Tel Aviv for $325,000. A two-room 60-sq.m. apartment was sold for $140,000.

■ In Ra'anana, on Rehov Ahuza, a three-room luxurious apartment on the third floor was sold for $240,000 via RE/MAX.

■ A five-room furnished apartment with a roof garden on Rehov Hayuval was rented through the agency for $1,200.

Haifa

■ On Rehov Einstein, a five-room penthouse with a panoramic view was sold for $272,000 via Century 21. The asking price was $300,000. The 125-sq.m. apartment, on the third floor without an elevator, needs renovations.

■ A three-room 65-sq.m. apartment on Rehov Maimon in Neveh Sha'anan was sold for $102,000 via Anglo-Saxon. The apartment, sold after a week on the market, is on the first floor.

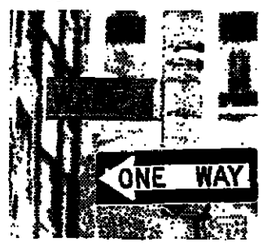
■ A three-room 78-sq.m. apartment on Rehov Shilon in Ramat Alon was sold for $172,000. The apartment is on the second floor without an elevator and includes a storeroom and parking.

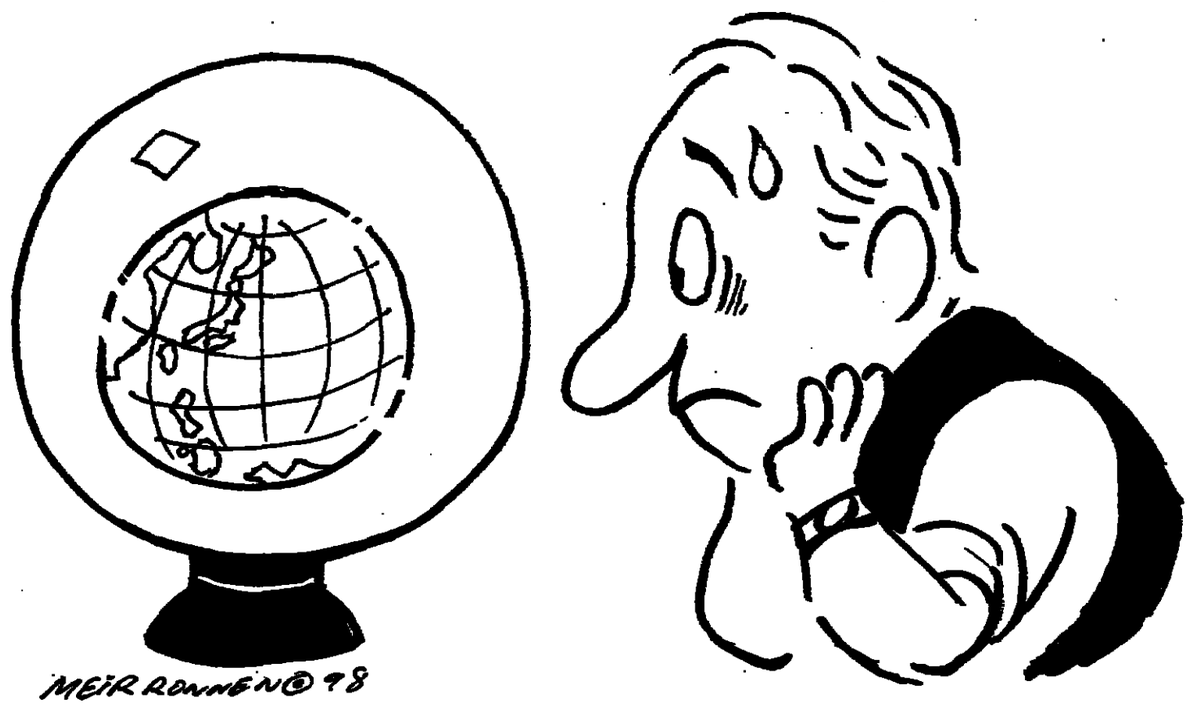
■ A four-and-a-half-room apartment in a new project on Rehov Mivtza Yehonatan was sold via Century 21 for $240,000. The 120-sq.m. apartment has a storeroom, covered parking and is on the ground floor.

Life after Wall Street

As international stocks often go up when the Dow Jones goes down, US-focused investors might do well to start looking elsewhere– especially at Asia's battered markets

Ways of Wall Street





By James K. Glassman

Two distressing facts to ponder: 1. Picking winners is getting tougher. Of 16 large investment houses monitored by Zacks Investment Research, only six beat the Standard & Poor's 500 index, a good proxy for the market as a whole, over the past 12 months. Only two beat the S&P during the second quarter of this year.

2. Stock prices have been going down. The average stock on the New York exchange is 24 percent below its 52-week high – the biggest decline since 1990, according to Salomon Smith Barney. The smallest stocks (under $250 million) are off an average of 43 percent from their highs.

Two encouraging conclusions to draw: 1. This could be a very good time to buy stocks – if you are confident in your ability (or that of a fund manager) to select them.

For example, I would rather buy Motorola at $52, its current price, than at $84, its high for the year.

2. It's also a time to remember that the domestic market isn't your only choice. Take the chance to balance your portfolio with international stocks, which often go up when US stocks go down.

While domestic stocks appear to be at the top of their historic ranges, many foreign stocks are at the bottom of theirs. One fund manager told me about three substantial Hong Kong companies that are each trading at a price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of under five – or less than one-fifth the valuation of the average S&P stock.

With foreign stocks becoming more important, it's comforting to check in with someone who has seen it all before – someone like Sir John Templeton, who, with Peter Lynch of Fidelity Magellan, is one of the two greatest mutual-fund managers of all time.

Sir John, now 85, founded Templeton Growth Fund, which buys stocks worldwide, in 1954. If you had invested $10,000 in the fund then, you would have $3.9m. today. Templeton stopped actively running money in 1982, stopped picking stocks in 1990 and sold his company to the Franklin Group in 1992. But the fund remains in capable hands.

Templeton was born in the tiny Tennessee town of Winchester, won a scholarship to Yale, became a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and went to work on Wall Street in 1937, in the depths of the Depression.

I remember my interview with him 16 years ago. The market was flat on its back (the Dow around 800). He had made a huge score in the 1970s in Japan, and unlike nearly everyone on Wall Street, was enthusiastic about US stocks. Templeton was a bargain hunter, and, of course, he was right to have faith in American stocks.

Today, he is interested in faith of a more traditional sort. Since 1972, he has been awarding an eponymous prize (now $1m. a year) for "progress in religion." Still, when I ran into him last month on a cruise in the Caribbean (he lives in the Bahamas), he was talking bargains. Always, he said, there are at least four or five markets that have fallen drastically, and it makes sense to diversify into some of them. He worries about US stocks, but the flow of money into mutual funds continues to be huge, and it bids up prices. Also, he says, "optimism, which never lasts forever, can last longer than early skeptics could imagine. Much longer."

A few weeks later, I read a rare, long interview with Sir John in a magazine called *Equities*. He elaborated: "I have never been able to predict the stock market, and you don't need to predict it. All you have to do is invest in those markets all around the world which have already gone down tremendously and be patient." But Templeton wasn't specific. So for more practical advice, I decided to turn to his heir, Mark Holowesko, who has been managing Templeton Growth, currently with $14.6 billion in assets, since 1987. Holowesko also runs another $40b. from his Nassau office, including Templeton Foreign.

Since Templeton Growth is a global fund, Holowesko can invest anywhere. Currently, he has 24 percent of his assets in US stocks and a hefty 8% in the stocks of tiny Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong market is down 21% this year, compared with an increase of 15% for US stocks. While Holowesko is not sanguine on companies in places like Korea and Indonesia, which are weighed down by debt and often poor management, he says Hong Kong is a different matter: "You can't paint all of Asia with the same brush."

Although there are risks in the short term, Hong Kong looks like a Templetonian buyers' paradise. "I can buy companies in Hong Kong below their net cash," Holowesko says. In other words, investors are selling a dollar for 80 cents. "I can buy companies whose dividend yields are higher than their P/Es." Take, for instance, Sime Darby, Ltd., the Hong Kong subsidiary of a Malaysian firm. A diversified trading company, with interests ranging from rice to travel services, it has, among its gems, the Caterpillar tractor franchise for the region.

According to Bloomberg News, the stock trades at a P/E of 3.5, with an indicated dividend yield of 16.8%. Shares fell from $9.60 (in Hong Kong dollars) a year ago to $2.15 in January. They have since jumped to $2.85.

Or consider another Hong Kong stock that Holowesko likes: Swire Pacific, Ltd. "When I can buy the Coca-Cola franchise for half of China, that's going to work out well for me," he said. "I may look like an idiot for six months, but a genius for three years." In addition to its Coke business, Swire, which was founded by a British family in 1816, owns 44% of Cathay Pacific Airlines, plus marine services and insurance.

The Asian crisis clearly is hurting the company, so a bet on Swire is a bet on a recovery. The price appears irresistible. It's $6 a share, but analysts who follow the stock predict earnings next year of $3.87. That's a P/E of less than two! Shares peaked a year ago at over $17.

A third intriguing Hong Kong stock on Holowesko's list is First Pacific Co., with subsidiaries in marketing, telecommunications and banking. Current P/E is five for 1998 and, based on earnings projections, a mere 1.5 for 1999. Dividend yield is 5%. The stock has plummeted 62% since the start of the year.

None of the three stocks trades on a US market, so you will have to make special arrangements with your broker to purchase them – or rely on a mutual fund like Templeton Growth, or Templeton Foreign, which owns no American stocks and has 10% of its portfolio in Hong Kong.

Narrower mutual funds keep an even larger proportion of their assets in Hong Kong stocks. At last report, Colonial Newport Tiger had 71% of its portfolio in Hong Kong, including Swire Pacific; Merrill Lynch Dragon had 65%; and T. Rowe Price New Asia had 47%.

Templeton Growth is not a regional fund. It moves to where the bargains seem to be – an approach that's worked well. The fund has a rating of "2" (next to the top) for both performance and risk from Value Line, and five stars (highest) from Morningstar.

Over the past seven years, the fund has finished six times in the first or second quintile (top 20% to 40%) of its global peer group. It has returned 15.6% annually, on average, for the past 10 years, whipping its benchmark world index by 4.7 percentage points. This year it's up only about 2%, but Templeton Growth is a long-haul fund.

And Holowesko does own US companies. Three of his top 10 stocks are American – General Motors Corp., Ford and Motorola, which, he says, "has a bright future, and it's been beaten up."

He's been buying back Boeing Co. lately as well as Potomac Electric Power Co., and an aerospace firm called Titanium Metals Corp., which trades at a price-to-earnings ratio of just 8, or less than one-third the P/E of the average S&P stock.

Holowesko also has large positions in such European stocks as Philips Electronics, NV, and Volkswagen, AG. But, in the style of Sir John, much of his enthusiasm and new cash is focused on battered Asia.

He's keeping the faith.

(The Washington Post)

Deconstructing the real estate market

A recent study indicates that the demand for local housing is diminishing, shattering the widely held myth that buying property is a wise investment

MARKET WATCH
By DAN GEISTENFELD

Judging from commercials sponsored by the Association of Contractors and Builders, housing prices are about to start rising again. But rushing to buy an apartment before the supposed turnaround may prove to be an irrational move, according to a study published last week by Ilanot Batucha Investment House.

In the report, analyst Eran Loewenstein predicts that prices will not in fact rise, but rather decline further over the next two years. Moreover, he concludes that "investing currently in real estate is unreasonable and stands in clear contrast to any economic logic."

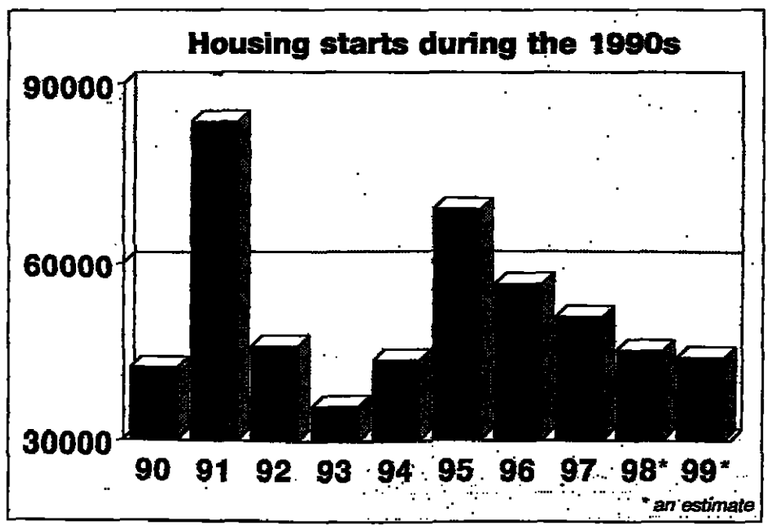
The report has definitely disappointed the contractors' association, which invested a good deal of money recently in a media campaign aimed at improving its image and trying to convince the public that buying an apartment today is the perfect thing to do.

In the commercial, popular radio star Alex Ansky urges TV viewers to buy a new apartment as prices are expected to rise soon. The television campaign is the latest attempt to revive the sluggish market. As is the case with all advertising, the public should take this commercial with a grain of salt.

In the study, Loewenstein argues against the assumption that housing prices are set to rise as the supply decreases.

IT has long been argued by a majority of experts, including those from the Housing and Construction Ministry, that if there are fewer than 50,000 housing starts a year, demand would exceed supply.

This mythical number of 50,000 wasn't seriously questioned until the Ilanot Batucha study, which claims that based on current trends, the market needs only 37,000 to 40,000 new apartments a year. This conclusion is based on a rapid decline in the number of new immigrants arriving from the former East Bloc, the natural birth rate and speculative property demand.



Presuming that Batucha's calculations are correct, it could be argued quite safely that housing prices will not rise.

Against all previous predictions, the number of housing starts last year amounted to 50,000. The number is expected to fall to 45,000 this year and to 44,000 in 1999. All figures are way above the number required according to Loewenstein, who predicts that housing prices will continue to decline in real terms for at least another two years.

Loewenstein also notes that domestic housing prices are among the world's highest when compared to Israelis' purchasing power. He said that for the price of a 3-4 room apartment in Tel Aviv, it is possible to purchase a similar flat in the most luxurious areas of Manhattan or a private apartment on the outskirts of London or Paris. Moreover, the average Israeli is required to pay some 109 monthly salaries for an average apartment while an American resident needs to pay less than 40 salaries.

The importance of purchasing power is made evident by Ilanot Batucha's conclusion that the "Israeli customer has reached the limits of his ability to pay for an apartment. Therefore we predict that demand for housing will disappear if prices increase."

ONE possible explanation for contractors' desperate attempts to market their merchandise is the difficulties presently faced by builders. In the past, housing companies were accustomed to a high leverage ratio. It is now difficult for them to adjust to the new reality of high interest rates, which hamper their ability to raise money. The problem has worsened in recent years as the Bank of Israel has put a cap on the amount of credit given to housing companies by commercial banks.

Additionally, companies that used to take foreign currency-linked loans are less likely to do so now, as they face a higher risk of the shekel depreciating. Loewenstein agrees that in the long run, constructors' difficulties will lead to a further decline in the number of housing starts, but this will not take place in the short or medium term, he says.

Loewenstein attacks another popular assumption: that investments in the housing market tend to offer higher returns than other alternatives. The report shows that an apartment purchased in 1971 has only maintained its value in real terms without granting the owner any extra earnings.

He notes that most Israelis wrongly believe housing prices in the local market have never declined and will therefore not fall in the future. The reality is, however, that during the past 30 years, the housing market has witnessed three waves of sharp declines in which private apartments lost up to 36 percent of their value in real terms.

For those considering buying a second apartment as an investment, Loewenstein recommends abandoning such a plan. The return on renting out an apartment is only 2.5%-4.5% while saving plans, which are considered to be a much safer investment, now offer yields of 5.5% or more. Moreover, even those who have the means but don't own an apartment are better off if they decide to rent one instead.

According to Loewenstein, someone with $400,000 can either buy a four-room apartment in Tel Aviv or put that same $400,000 in a savings account and rent a flat for some $1,000 a month.

The second option would guarantee an income of some $10,000 each year. Furthermore, there would be none of the risks associated with buying an apartment, such as falling prices and additional costs such as renovations and plumbing.

The only logic in buying an apartment in such a case, according to Loewenstein, is if housing prices rise by an annual 2.5% in real terms. But the chances of such a scenario are relatively low according to Ilanot Batucha, which concludes that "we are in the middle of a process in which we'll see a correction in real-estate prices."

The Business Scene
By Greer Fay Cashman

6.8 **The Israeli High-Tech Dream – The Road to Success** is the theme of a study day at the Sharon Hotel, Herzliya, sponsored by Ma'ariv Congresses. Speakers from Israel and abroad will address issues such as global trends and new opportunities; Israel as a source for innovative technology; special difficulties encountered by high-tech companies in Israel and possible solutions; presenting a concept; new business opportunities in the Internet era; selling programs for millions of dollars; and risks for start-up companies.

11.8 The Executive Club for Finance and Agriculture, under the aegis of the Israel Management Center, will hold a breakfast meeting at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv, with Border Police Commissioner Yitzhak Dadon, who will discuss **Agricultural Theft**. Reports on pilferage of agricultural products will also be presented by regional security officers.

12.8 **Minimizing Financial Risk** is the subject of a seminar organized by the Israel Management Center at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Tel Aviv.

19.8 The Jerusalem College of Technology – Machon Levin, in conjunction with the Jerusalem Development Authority, will host a seminar entitled **What Wall Street Really Wants**, which aims to explore investor attitude toward high-tech companies. Open to the public, the seminar will take place between 3:45 and 6.30 p.m. at the JCT campus, 21 Hava'ad Haleumi Street, Jerualem. Keynote speakers at the event will include New York-based Andrew Neff, a senior managing director of Bear Stearns & Co., a leading investment bank and brokerage firm; and Morris Smith, the former managing director of the Fidelity Magellan Fund, the world's largest mutual fund. Neff coordinates Bear Stearns' Technology Research Group, and Smith, who now lives in Israel, invests in various high-tech companies. To register, contact JCT at (02) 675-1117.

3.9 Globes Initiative, Ernst & Young and the Chasm Group have joined forces to present an all-day seminar on **Strategic Marketing to American High-Tech Companies**. The event, to be held at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, features Michael Tanner of the Chasm Group. Chasm is based in the Silicon Valley and specializes in strategic, worldwide market consultation and has more than 500 leading high-tech companies on its client list.

Some of the subjects to be discussed at the seminar include the "The essential building blocks of a lifetime product marketing strategy"; "Planning the successful product launch"; "Market-driven product and partner strategies"; "Playing up strengths to compensate for weaknesses"; "Using pricing and distribution strategies to accelerate growth"; and "30 minutes to higher service revenues." To register, call (03) 696-8250.

هكذا من الاصل

صكرا من الاصل

TEL AVIV 100 LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	463	0
Africa Israel 0.1	19500	0
Africa Israel 1	188000	-1.6
Agis	2410	-1.2
Al Paper Mills	12820	-3
Al-Rov	2760	-3.6
Azorim	2830	-2.8
Azorim Prop	640	0
Bank Leumi 0.1	592	-2.5
Barak	4810	0.4
Bayside 1	2940	-2.4
Bayside 5	45900	0
Bezeq	210000	0
Blue Square	1242	-0.6
Bromine	3100	-3.9
Clal Electronics	55200	-2.9
Clal Industries	2010	-1
Clal Insurance	3650	-1.4
Clal Israel 1	9980	-0.9
Dan Hotels	1193	0
Danziger	2140	0
Darban	892	-2.9
Dead Sea Works 0.1	838	-1.8
Delek 0.1	12300	0
Delek Car	823	-0.9
Development Mort	22400	0
Discount Bank	475	-1.1
Discount Inv.	11730	-2.9
Elbit 0.003	825	-1.1
Elbit Imaging	2050	-3.6
Elbit system	4580	-1.9
Elco	1865	-0.4
Elco Industries	3250	0
Electra	17000	3.2
Electra App	2260	4.4
Elite Ind. 1	2480	1.2
Elite Ind. 5	11400	-1.3
Elron 0.003	5410	-1.2
FBI 5	3330	-2.1
First Int'l 1	526	-3.5
First Int'l 5	2580	-3.5
First Int'l Mort	50000	0
Formula	12170	-3.8
General Bank	10400	1.3
Granit Hacarmel	727	-2.5
Hadarim Prop.	8250	-33.6
Hem-Let	2080	0
Hapoalim 0.1	1058	-1.1
Harel Mishmar 1	3400	-2.9
Harel Mishmar 5	15900	-0.6
I.D.B. Dev.	9560	-3.2
I.D.B. Holdings	9500	-2.9
IDC	2240	-2.2
Ind Bldgs	801	-2.5
Israel Chemicals	448	-2
Israel Corp. 1	29200	-1.4
Isrotel	551	0
Jafora	800	0
JCT	37	3
JEC	1835	-1.6
Kitan	320	-5.9
Koulsalm	5460	9
Koor	42000	0.2
Leader	1350	0
Leumi Insurance	214	-5.1
Leumi Mortgage	80000	0
Lesr	4050	-2.5
Makhteshim Agan Ind.	1047	-3.3
Maman	809	0
Matab	4710	-1.7
Mehadrin	13380	-4.6
Mel Edan	1816	8
Melisseron	1680	0
Menorah Ins. 1	2050	0
Milomor	1559	-0.4
Mishkan	85000	-1.2
Mizrahi Inv.	8810	0
NATSVA REGULAR	1445	0
Nice Systems	13970	-1.6
Opc	7580	0
Orbit	1338	-8.1
Ormat Industries	540	-2.2
Osem Industries	1768	-2
Petrochemicals	2050	-2
Phoenix Ins. 1	5730	0
Poalim Inv.	12000	-1.2
Prop & Bldg	33400	0
Saf Industries	2080	0
Solel Bone	4390	-1.1
Supersol	1183	-1
Tadiran	19410	-1
Tambour	820	0
Telehot	193400	-0.1
Tempo	1675	-1.9
Teva	12530	-3.1
Urdan	252	-3.5
Wire and Cables	1100	-1.1
Ytong Industries	904	-0.7

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	371	-0
Solomon Holdings	397	1
Abjec	1.9	0
Abtel	45	0
Ace-Spede	92.5	3.8
Ackerstein Bond B	164	0
Ackerstein Ind.	530	-3
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1710	4.7
Ackerstein Zvi 5	7600	1.3
adalcom	36.5	0
Adanim	356091	0
Adler	108	1.9
Adsha	143.5	-2
Adumim	184.5	9.2
Africa Hotels Bond B	90	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	58.6	0
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	132.5	0.3
Alsek Ind	1090	6.4
Agis Warrant 3	30	40
Agis Warrant 4	470	4.3
Agish Int'l	394	0
Agri Investments	539	0
Al-Ben	119.5	0
Al-Ben Bond A	107	0
Alfas o2	94.1	-1.5
Alfas w5	143	-3.5
Alliance	680	-2.9
Alony	289	0
Alony-Hetz	505	0
Alony-Hetz Bond A	237	0
Alrod	168	0
Alrod Warrant 1	4.5	25
Altrov Bond D	77.5	0.6
Altrov Warrant 5	575	0
Alumir	207	0
Alumot	2236	-3
Amigar	163	2.5
Amitec	237	-0.8
Ammell Warrant 1	27	0
Ammot	539	0
Ampa Investments	117700	0
Analyst EMS	790	0
Angel Trade	29.5	-5.1
Angel Trade Bond A	144.5	0
Angel Trade Bond B	105.5	-0.9
Angel Trade Bond C	55.5	0
Apcon	980	-2
Apcon warrant 1	315	0
Applicom	3610	-2.8
Aracell Warrant 2	430	0
Arad	1450	-0.7
Arad Towels	871	0
Arazim	78	0
Arazim Bond 1	240	0
Argaman	340	0
Arieden	1138	-1
Arpal	330	0
Aryn	138	-9.8
Ashkelon Plywood	520	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	248	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	123	0
Ashtad	359	-1.1
Ashtad Bond A	152	0.3
Ashot	309	-10
Ashot Bond A	163.6	0
Ashpera	79	-7.1
Ashtrom Bond 1	173	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	150.7	0.1
Ashtrom Ind.	513	0
Ashtrom Prop	205	0
Astrom P Bond 1	86	-2.3
Astrom p warrant e	24	0
Astrum Bond C	93.5	0
Astrum Warrant 2	26.5	0
Atkin	88	0
Atmor	2340	0
ATX	188	-10
ATX Bond A	154.5	0
Atzmon	219	0
Aura	4000	-1.2
Avarot	370	3
Avarot Bond A	161	0
Averbuch Formica	538	0
Avev	278	-10
Avev	154	0
Avev Bond 1	67.5	0
Avev Bond 2	2.2	6
Avner	91.5	0.9
Avrot Bond 2	66.1	13.2
Avrot Warrant 2	451	0
Ayelon	440	0
Azimuth	168.5	0.1
Azorim Properties Bond 3	491	0
Azorim Warrant 13	97.5	0
Azorim Warrant 5	540	-7.4
Azorim Warrant A	600	8.3
Azorim Warrant B	34	0.3
Badash Bond 1	450	0
Baibil	153	0
Balentine 1	138	0
Balentine Bond A	53	20.5
Balentine Warrant 2	2790	0
Balroo	103.5	0
Bama'asat	143	0
Bama'asat Bond A	321	0
Bar	124	0.4
Bar Bond A	281	0
Barad	796	0
Baranowitz	760	0
Barkan	100	-9.1
Barsol	226	0
Barsel	163.5	0
Baumel Moshe	86.1	0
BaySide Bond 2	2100	0
BaySide Warrant D	1680	-1.1
Bet Shamesh	388	0
Bolmon	164.5	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	79	-1.2
Ben Yakar Bond B	3161	-0.5
Ben Yakar Gal	189.5	-1
Berman	127	-0.1
Bezeq Bond 3	2760	0.4
Bezeq Bond 4	620	0
Bezeq Warrant 3	350	-2.2
Bezeq Warrant Bond 3	1915	0
Bilu	186.5	-0.3
Bilu Bond A	408	0
Binor	222	0
Biri	76.5	0
Bokos Bond B	42.8	-7.4
bokos gad warrant 1		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bonei Tichon	805	0
Bonjour	465	-7.9
Boulous Brothers	154	0
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	263	0.8
Boulous GD Bond A	133	0.4
Brand	86.5	-1.7
Brill	56.5	0
Brok Side	20.1	-2
Brosh	112	-1.3
Building Bank	1664	0
Building Resou.	3500	4.9
C Holdings	497	-2
C Holdings Bond 5	83	-2.4
C Holdings Warrant 3	2	-23.1
Caesarea 1	4950	0
Canel	3400	-2.9
Capdas	810	0
Capital Bond A	113.6	-0.4
Caprice	312	0
Carpal	840	7.6
Carmel	537	-0.6
Carmiel	415	0
Casiro	514	0
Cassiera 1	372	-0.5
CDI	164.5	0
Cementacal Bond A	68.1	0
Cementacal	425	-1.2
Centra	143	-5
Centra Bond 1	125.5	0
Chian	451	-3.5
Cheyrun Computers	142	0
Chesmipal	444	0.5
Chum-Nir	509	0
Ci Systems	171	0
Cidab	148.5	0
Cial Computers	9420	1.2
Cial Israel 5	0	0
Cial Retail	67198	0
Cohen Beni	123.5	0.8
Cohen Dev	200	0
Cohen MM	147	-2
Cold Storage 1	1820	-1.1
Cold Storage 5	8900	-2.1
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	253	0
Compi	155	0.6
Compi Warrent 1	20	0
Computex	190	0
Comtech	428	0
Comtrans	782	-0.8
Consal	1019	0
Contractors	16812	0
Coral Beach	615	0
Credir Une	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2000	0
Cyclone Bond 1	248	0
Cyclone Bond 2	150	0
Dalron	1725	0
Dalron Bond 1	247	0
Dalin	1.3	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	767	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	156	0
Danbar 1	5000	-5
Danbar 5	18700	-3.2
Danbar Bond A	290	0
Danbar Resources	7500	-3.9
Danbar Resources Bond B	169	1.2
Danbar Tech.	5820	0
Danbar Technologes Bond A	151	0
Danel	52	0
Danel Bond A	87	0
Danel Personnel	2200	-0.5
Danel Warrant 2	439	0
Dankner Bond 1	210	0
Dankner Bond 2	732.8	0
Dankner Bond 3	86	0.5
Dankner Warrant C	645	6.2
Danly	447	0
Darad	100	0
DARBAN BOND 2	101.5	0
Darban Bond A	269	0
DARBAN W2	250	0
Darban Warrant 3	150	0
Dares	124.5	0
Darlon	143.5	0
Dash Investment	890	0.6
Data	656	-2
Decision Systems	544	2
Degem Systems	455	-2.9
Delek Drillings	14	20
Delek Oil	1399	-0.5
Delta 1	3810	-2.1
Delta 3	11620	0
Destiny	1390	0
Digal	123	0
Dirorm1	1244	-5.2
Dolev	343	0
Dolev Bond A	132.9	0
Dolev warrant 1	44	0
Domicar	405	0
Domicar Bond	152	0.3
Dor Barger	398	-0.5
Dor Chem	340	0
Doro w1	110	-9.1
Dorsa	56	0
Dort c1	85.5	0
Dort Engineering	455	0
Dort Engineering Bond A	134.5	0
Dowrat Bond A	137	0
Dowrat Shrem	1417	-2
Dowrat Shrem Warrant 3	5.7	-10.7
DSI	986	-5.3
Dubek M	2.5	4.2
Dubek S	2.4	0
Dunitz	272	-9.3
DVG Industries	481	0
E & M Computing	1055	0
Edgar Albert	62	0
Edgar Industries	198	0
Edgar Inv. Bond C	83.1	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	22	-2.7
Eitar Bond A	86	0
Elni	162	0
Elram	299	0
Elronan	3430	-0.3
El Bad	1945	0
El Cerol	579	0
El Caret Bond 1	156	0
Elad	505	-1
Elad Bond A	189	0
Elad Bond B	198.2	0
Elad c3	73	-0.5
Elad w5	30	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	122.8	0
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	582	-5.1
Eldan Tech.	215	6
Electronics Line	553	9.9
Elgar	4880	0
Elishav	500	0.2
Elisch Ind.	1250	8.2
Elisam	390	0
Elite	393	0
Ella Bond A	140	0
Elran	3700	0
Elron Warrant 2	2605	-2
Emek	140	0
Emylo	710	-0.6
Engel Const.	770	0
ESE	2180	-5
Eshed Robotech	180	-8.3
Even	420	0
Evergreen	3250	0
Evrois Warrant 1	1480	0
Excelence	1687	0
Export Inv.	853	6.9
Extra	101	-3.3
Feldman	168	0
Feldman Bond A	145.2	0
Feldman Ind.	218	-0.6
Feldman Warrant 3	25.8	0
Fermilaser 1	132	-0.4
Feuchtwanger 1	10200	-7.4
Feuchtwanger 5	53800	0
Fidelit	2512	0
Five J Jewelers	288	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	128	0
Formica Source	129.5	0
Frasrom	571	-0.3
Gahalet	19000	-2.2
Galcom	192	0
Galran	1142	0
Gama	189	-0.5
Gamatronic	583	-1.1
Gambit	1719	0
Gan Shmoel Bond A	125.5	0
Gan Shmoel Warrant 3	745	2.3
Gan Shmuel	1719	2.3
Ganel Hadar	400	-2.2
Gap Development	108	0
Gap Holdings	298	0
Gap Warrant 2	9	0
Garo	602	0.7
Gazit Bond B	147.5	0
Gazit Bond C	118.5	0
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	84.5	-0.7
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	615	1
Gibor Warrant 2	94	0
Gilboa	78	0
Gillo	176	4.1
Gilsek	1820	3.1
Ghot Clam Oh	72	0
Glob Rit	721	-3.7
Golan	630	4.8
Gold	413	0
Golden House	375	0
Golden House Bond 1	247	0
Golex	189.5	-1
Granit Bond	145	0.5
Granit Bond 2	149	-0.1
Green Software	450	0
Greenberg	1471	-2.1
H. Electronics	80	0
H. Mer	945	0
Habas	2527	0
Habas Bond 1	130	-0.4
Hadar 1	30000	19
Hadar 5	75800	-0.9
Hadar Ins. 1	919	0
Hadar Ins. 5	3720	0
Hadarim Bond1.	113	0
Hadarim Warrant1	1285	-0.3
Hagal	390	-3.7
Hagar Bond B	147	0
Hamekor	327	-0.9
Hanot	5.1	0
Harel Bond A	485	0
Hasin Esh	700	0
Hason	180	-4.8
Hatahof 1	285	0
Hatahof Bond A	140	-1.4
Hayal	1097	-1.1
Hayal Bond1	11.1	0
Hayal Bond2	135	-11.1
Hayal Warrant 1	80.1	0
Hed Arzi Music	3950	6.3
Hiron 1	10350	0
Hiron 5	41400	0
HL Service Bond 2	181.5	0
HL Service Bond 3	146	0
HL Services	1465	-1
Hod	140	0
Hof	630	0.5
Hofit	125	0
Home Center	5500	-6.2
Hydrotec	123.5	-0.8
IES Industries	571	-9.2
IES Warrant 1	100	0
Ilan Gal	110	0
Ilan Gal Bond A	144	0
ILDC Bond B	258	0
ILDC Hotels	500	9
ILDC Hotels	168.7	0.1
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	112	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	380	-1.3
ILDC Insurance	131.5	0.4
ILDC Insurance Bond A	1051	0
Imco	48	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	85	0.4
Ind Bldgs R1	398	0
Ind.Dev.Bank C	3000	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3020	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1777	0
Independence Mort	80300	0
Intercoloma	774	0
Intergamma 1	3540	0
Intergamma 5	12700	0
Ital	1685	0
Ispro	4080	0
Isracolor	432	0
Israel Corp. 5	139700	-1
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	135.5	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	172.5	0.1
Isralom	1023	10
Isralom Bond B	266	0
Isralom Bond C	87	0
Isramco	2.6	-9.8
Isras 1	7190	0
Isras 5	29100	0
Isras Bond A	248	-0.8
ISTA LINES	2550	0
Itay	2210	0
Itay Bond 1	71.5	1.4
Itay Warrant 1	390	0
Itay Warrant 2	45	0
Jafora Bond A	180	0
Jaysour	131	0
Jaysour Bond A	101.5	0
JEC Bond B	91.5	-0.5
Jerusalem Mort	185.1	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	180	0
Jeunesse	30.2	0
JOEL	98	-2.2
JOEL Bond 1A	218	0
JOEL Bond 2	122	0
JOEL Bond A	218	0
JOEL Warrant 3	1.5	0
Kadimani	145	-9.7
Kadoun	386	0
kalnos bond b	83.5	0.8
kalnos warrant 1	83.7	11.7
Kalnt	1269	0
Kalkalit Bond A	82	0.3
Kalkalit warrant 2	292	0
Kamour	582	0
Kamour Bond G	727.7	0.2
Kamsept	1120	-1.5
Kanal Warrant G	1	0
Kanucol	30.7	0
Kanlcol Bond A	40	0
Kardan 1	510	-7.8
Kardan 5	2590	-5.6
Katz	128	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3950	-1.3
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	0	0
Kenaex	341	0
Kesher	664	0
Kesher Bond A	148.5	0
Keter	534	0
Kind	26.6	0.4
Kind Bond A	47.7	0
King	238	1.3
Kinneret	230	-0.4
Kisch Kinur	177.5	0
Kishrei Teufa	1100	-9
Kitel	339	-2.4
Kital Bond A	152	-1.3
Kital Bond A	111.8	0
Kill Ind. 5	6460	0
Koor Bond 5	148.2	0.1
Kopel	215	-10
Kopel Bond 1	244	0
La Nationale Bond A	139	0
La Nationale Pref	120	0
Lachish	3100	8.1
Lamoni	800	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	75	0
Lasers	436	0
Lavtav	592	0
Laznick Bldg	480	-2.3
Laznick Comm Ctrs	168.5	0
Laznick Commercial Centres Bond	265	0.4
Laznick Ind. Bldgs	295	0
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	133.9	0
Leader Warrant B	3.5	-12.5
Lego	469	0
Laumi R4	98.5	-19.1
Lewenthal	426	-0.2
Levi	730	0
Levi Bond A	139.9	-0.1
Levi Bond B	86.5	0
Levi Warrant 2	79	0
Levinstain Bond A	95.7	-0.3
Levinstain Warrent 2	815	0
Levinstain	1500	0
Liber	333	-10
Lidan	1330	0.8
Lilahir 1	176	0
Lilshir 5	603	-3.2
Ligad	708	-3
Ligad Bond 1	148.5	0
Lighteregs 1	600	0
LIMS	250	5.9
Lipman	2760	-1.8
Lipski	2700	-0.4
Lipski Bond A	165.3	0
Litez Bond A	155	-1.4
Lodan	155	-1.9
Lodzia 1	1991	0
Lodzia 4	5014	0
Luhot Galil	32.6	-0.6
Luhot Galil Bond 1	137.5	0
Lumir	3880	0
Ma'amr	3270	1.5
Ma'amr Bond A	148.2	0
Masbarot	1150	-1.7
Macpel	813	-4.6
Macpel Bond A	137.4	0.3
Macpell Bond B	114.1	0
Macpell Bond C	74.6	0.1
Macpell Warrant 3	60.9	-14.8
Madi	2796	0
Magam	151	0
Magam Bond A	167	0
Magam Bond B	125.5	-0.4
Magav	144.5	0
Magma	36.1	1.7
Magor 1	2070	0
Magor 5	9980	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	79.1	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	665	0
Maiel	279	-0.4
Mak	468	-10.1
Malibu 1	0	0
Malibu 5	0	0
Malibu Bond B	179	0
Malta	780	0
Man	88	0
Man Bond A	215	0
Mantur	27	0
Marathon	94	0
Marathon insured	89	-4.3
Marco Laznick Constr. Bond 1	170	0
Marlo Laznick Constr. Bond 2	148.2	0.1
Maritime Bank	1458	-2
Maritime Bank Bond A	188.5	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	136.8	0.2
Mashav	820	0
Mashbir	682	0
Mashov	395	-1.8
Mashov	172	0
Masam	1281	0
Masav Warrant 1	1145	-0.2
Maxima 1	336	-10.1
Maxima 5	1570	0
Mazpalt	747	0
Med. Hotels	29	-2.4
Mediechnics	700	-1.4
Mediechnics Bond A	135.8	0
Mediechnics Bond B	75.3	0.4
Mediechnics Warrant 2	160	0
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	52.5	-0.9
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	389	0
Meir Ezra	1990	0
Meir Ezra Bond B	248	0
Melot	395	0
Melissaron Bond B	90.3	0.3
Melissaron Warrant 3	41.5	0
Mendelson	218	0
Menofim	97.1	0
Menorah Ins. 5	8450	0
Menorah	593	0
Merhav	196	0
Meytavit	316	-0.9
Middle East Tube	390	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	107.2	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	16.3	-2.2
Milomor Bond A	140.8	-0.1
Milomor Bond B	76.8	0.1
Milomor Warrant 2	165	0
Mimear	105	0
Mini Line	560	0
Minrav	12600	-5.9
Minage	219	0
Minage Bond A	139	0
Minage Warrant 1	18.8	0
Mirom	80	0
Mishmarot	19	0
Mishmarot Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	140	0
Mishor Hahof	380	-1.4
Mitavim	150	0
Mivtach Shamir	2920	-3.2
Mivtach Shamir	1160	0
Mizrahi	1001	-1.6
Mizrahi warrant 1	422	-2.6
Mizrahi warrant 2	293	-1.7
MM Engineering	100	0
MM Engineering Bond A	102	0
Modigal	681	0
Modi'in	1	0
Moflet	213	-2.3
Moflet Convertible Bond AAA	295	0
Mofett	658	0
More Plastic Ind.	374	0
Moshkowitz	154.8	0
MTI Computers	467	0
Mul-T-Lock	743	-9.7
Mula Senter	223	0
Nachshon Fund	51.5	2.1
Naphtha	93.1	0.6
Naphtha Oil Exp.	24	0
Nasour	700	1
NATSVA BOND A	98.2	0
Navigator	386	0
Navigator Property	750	0.8
Nechushtan Bond B	75	0
Nechushtan Prop.	190	-5.9
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	128	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	26.5	0
Negev Ceramics	159	-0.6
Nehushtan 1	685	0
Nehushtan 5	2540	-1.6
Neot Aviv	7200	0
Nesuo	453	0
Neve Arbel	190.5	2
Nevim Hotels	353	-1.9
Nevlot	730	-1.4
Nia	233	0
Nilaw	1150	-9.6
Nisco	2980	-9.5
Nissan	261	0
NMC	304	-0.7
Noga	1859	0
Noga Insorens	108	0
Nordan	10.8	0
Nordan Tech.	380	0
Norlolk	670	0
Norlolk Bond A	141.5	0
Nur	83	0
NYP	917	0
Oceanic	282	0
Ocil Bond A	179.8	-0.2
Ocil Bond C	84	0
Ocil Warrant 2	729	0
Oceanic	630	0
Oilek	216	-0.5
Oler Bro	5100	-17.8
Orlis	1080	0
Ogden	61	0
Ofallav	474	-10.1
Oil Fields	1	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ofo-Dok	280	2.1
Omni	273	0
Omnitech	188.3	0
Ophir	397	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	123	0.4
Opsys	3062	0
Orazil	389	0
Orazil Bond A	158.1	0.1
Orda	3880	0
Orda Bond 1	178	0
Orav	847	-0.7
Orbit	118	0
Orbo	286	-1.7
Orbo Bond A	88	0
Orbo Warrant 2	42	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	129	0
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	150.2	-14.5
Ortal	390	0
Ozer Hashiton	27100	2.6
Oz	209	6.1
Oz etsda	419	0
Packer Steel	5880	-3.7
Pallaugh	601	-7.3
PAM	578	-0.5
Parna	650	0
Parnes	2550	0
Pan Dor	250	0
Pardes	806	-0.5
Pardes Bond A	61	0
Passport	2040	0
Paz Chen	543	0
PCB	1640	-0.6
Pdan Investment	47	-4.7
Perag	95	0
Penclase	797	3.4
Phoenix Ins. 5	20000	0
Pica Plast	450	0
Pimps	130.5	0
Pimps Bond A	140.5	0
Pitkit	440	0
Plason bond a	97.1	-0.3
Plason warrant 1	489	0
Plasson	3650	-1.3
Plasto Sac	646	-1.2
Plasto Sheck Bond A	85	0.6
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	77	9.1
Poalim Inv. Bond B	90.6	0.1
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2650	0
Poalim Investments Bond A	131	0
Poalim Warrant 3	529	0
Point of Sale	2310	-5.2
Polak	234	-10
Polgat A	327	-0.6
Polgat B 4	1134	-3.2
Polgat Bond B	0	0
Polygon	202	0
Polygon Bond 2	218	0
Porez	262	0
Port	80.5	0
Poseidon	115.7	0.5
Pri Hasemek	18.4	1.1
Pri Hasemek Bond A	33.3	-0.8
Pritzker	192	0
Pritzker Bond A	140.5	0.4
Profit	303	0
Profit Bond A	128	0
Python	484	-0.2
Quality Cap Mkts	485	0
Rabinlex	199.5	0
Ram Zur	76.6	0
Ramgor 1	280	0
Ramgor 4	702	0
Rapak	2650	-1.2
Rapak Bond A	153	0
Rassco	1046	0
Rebo	1	0

TASE follows world market spiral

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks fell for the third day, led by Bank Leumi, following declines in US and European stocks on concern Asia's economic woes hurt corporate profits in the second quarter.

Shares in Bank Leumi, the nation's second-largest bank by assets, fell 2.4 percent to NIS 6.92, pushing the Maof Index of 25 largest companies down 1.86% to 326.05.

Asia's recession reduced global demand and slowed the growth of export-oriented economies such as Israel, analysts said. Israel's first-half trade deficit to east Asian countries widened 39%, according to a July 13 report from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Analysts said subdued economic growth erodes bank profits, too, because it increases the probability of more loan defaults and higher provisions for bad debt.

"The whole market is down because results for the second-quarter aren't going to be great," said Doron Tsur, the head researcher at Sahar Securities. "A slowdown in the economy is a concern in the quality of credit" and questions whether debtors are able to repay loans.

Shares in Bank Leumi, which accounted for a third of yesterday's trading volume and pushed down the index the most, extended declines for a third day on expectations it will post a drop in its second-quarter profit.

The bank's 1998 profit is forecast to drop 34%, to NIS 0.59 a share from NIS 0.89 a year ago, according to a mean estimate of eight analysts surveyed by IBES International Inc., which was released Sunday, when the market was closed.

This estimate is down from an earlier average of 0.58 shekels a share.

Shares in its largest rival, Bank Hapoalim Ltd., also fell.

Its shares dropped 1.12% to 10.58 shekels, declining for the second day.

Europe

UK stocks fell for a second day, on gloomy profit prospects for banks after HSBC Holdings Plc, the UK's largest bank, reported lower-than-expected profit.

"We see a tough outlook for the retail banks," said Joe Hall, the head of European equities marketing at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Last week's results showed only mediocre earnings, he said, while concern is growing about "what they're saying about the coming 12 months."

HSBC, which makes almost half its profit in Asia, said it set aside $1.15 billion against bad debts — quadrupling the amount it reserved for bad loans last year.

Other banks fell as well, even those without Asian business, on expectations second- half profit will be hurt by high UK interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 Index fell 27.3 points to 5809.7, the eighth decline in the past two weeks. The broader 250 Index fell 34.8 points to 5447.9.

British Telecommunications Plc, Britain's dominant phone company, led the 100 share-index losses, down 13p to 874.

BT denied weekend newspaper reports it would try to block Securicor Plc from selling its 40% share in mobile phone network Cellnet to investors. BT owns the other 60% of Cellnet.

"We'd favor a play on Securicor," said Logie Cassells, who helps manage 3 billion pounds ($5 billion) in the UK equity market at Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management Ltd.



Maof 326.05 ▼ 1.86%

Dow Jones 8787 ▼ 1.09%

FTSE 5809.7 ▼ 0.47%

Nikkei 16165.08 ▼ 1.31%

Asia

Japanese stocks fell for the first time in five days as losses by the yen against the dollar dragged down share prices across Asia, sharpening concerns Japan's economic ills are spreading to the rest of the region.

Banks paced decliners as investors doubted new Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, scheduled to present his policies to parliament Friday, will come up with a prescription for ending Japan's worst recession since WWII.

"If Japan can't push through economic reform, Asia is going to pay the price, with obvious consequences for the rest of the world," said Mikio Murata, a general manager at Dai-Ichi Investment Trust Management Ltd.

"Investors are skeptical the new administration has what it takes to break out of that vicious circle."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 213.89 points, or 1.31%, to 16,165.08. The broader Topix index of all companies listed on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange slipped 16.80 points, or 1.33 percent, to 1245.24.

Sanwa Bank Ltd. led down financial shares, tumbling 118 yen, or 9.57%, to 1,115 after the Financial Supervisory Agency barred Japan's fourth-largest bank from selling mutual funds for a year for bribing Ministry of Finance and bank officials. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Wall Street stocks fell yesterday on worries that a further slide in the yen and a slowing domestic economy will put more pressure on corporate earnings.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 96.55 points, or 1.09 percent, at 8,786.74, its weakest close since June 22.

"There is a general sense that stock prices have to adjust downward to reflect the slower growth in earnings," said Alan Skrainka, chief market strategist at Edward Jones.

The Dow fell 143 points on Friday on similar worries, coupled with ongoing concerns about the White House scandal.

On the New York Stock Exchange, declining issues led advances by more than two-to-one, but volume was moderate at 622 million shares.

Birinyi Associates said computer sell programmes wiped almost a hundred points off the Dow during the session.

"Asia set the tone for the start of the week," said Peter Coolidge, senior equity trader at Brean Murray & Co.

Overnight, the yen slid to 145.65 per dollar, near an eight-year low but well above the 142 level at which the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan stepped in to bolster the ailing currency mid-June. It traded around 141 a week ago. (Reuters)

Yen falls as no economic relief seen in Japan

The dollar rose for a fourth day against the yen as Japan's worsening economic slump dragged down stocks and currencies throughout Asia.

Taichi Sakaiya, the new head of Japan's Economic Planning Agency, said the EPA's forecast of 1.9 percent growth for the year ending in March is "unachievable."

Growth won't be better than 0.5%, he said, and the economy might even shrink by 0.5% this year.

"The Japanese know they need to get their house in order, but until they do that, the outlook for the yen remains negative," said Domenick Presa, chief currency trader at Generale Bank, who said that if the dollar passes 145.60 again, it will likely match the eight-year high it reached in June.

The US currency was at 145.51 yen, up from 144.66 yen late Friday in New York. Earlier it rose as high as 145.86, its highest since hitting 146.78 on June 16. Its gains also drove it higher against the mark. It rose to 1.7851 marks from 1.7796 marks.

Japan's moribund consumer demand is hurting the country's neighbors that depend on Japan to buy their exports. The weakness in the yen, which has fallen 10% this year, makes Japan's exports less expensive. That too puts pressure on Japan's Asian trade competitors.

"Very clearly the economic and financial problems in Japan are taking center stage" for all of Asia, said Nick Stamenkovic, chief European economist at Baca Futures. "There doesn't seem to be an end in sight to the yen softening."



Dollar 3.654 ▼ 0.14%

Basket 3.8809 ▼ 0.28%

Mark 2.0415 ▼ 0.31%

Sterling 5.9242 ▼ 0.8%

The Hong Kong government said its economy contracted by 2.8% in the first quarter, more than the 2% initially forecast. The Hang Seng stock index fell 4.83%.

Currencies in the region slumped against the dollar, with the Singapore dollar falling 0.33%, the Philippine peso 0.30%, and the South Korean won 1.01%.

Also, Chinese stocks plunged in Hong Kong as the weakening yen fueled concern China may be forced to devalue the yuan. A devaluation of the yuan would compound Asia's problems, and could spark currency devaluations throughout the region as other nations try to compete with Chinese and Japanese exports.

"You cannot rule out devaluation of the yuan," said Stamenkovic.

The yen has fallen in recent days on doubts Japan's new prime minister, Keizo Obuchi, will be able to put a swift end to the country's worst recession since World War II.

Obuchi, who presents his economic policies to parliament on Friday, faces evidence Japan's slump is worsening. The economy contracted 0.7% in the year ended March 31, and the government suggested Friday that it may continue to shrink in the year through March 1999.

"The dollar will continue to get upward momentum from concern the Obuchi government is not taking fast enough action to deal with the problems of Japan's economy," said Tom Barman, of Rothschild Asset Management. "I personally believe the government is well aware of the concern and will in fact provide measures to reflate the economy."

Those expectations will eventually "stop the dollar from continuing its advance, but it's going to take a few more weeks," said Barman, who also said he won't consider buying yen until then. (Bloomberg)

Gold falls to seven-week low

Precious metals

Gold for immediate delivery fell to its lowest in seven weeks on concern that a weaker yen will reduce Japanese demand for the dollar-denominated precious metal. The yen slid to its lowest in seven weeks against the dollar, making the metal more expensive for Japanese consumers. Concern Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi may not be able to put a swift end to Japan's worst recession since World War II lifted the dollar to 146.18 yen, its strongest since June 16.

Gold for immediate delivery fell as much as $2.45, or 0.8 percent, to $286 an ounce, its lowest price since June 16.

Energy

Crude oil for September delivery fell 7 cents, or 0.5 percent, to $14.14 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Traders are assessing whether output cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will lead to smaller world inventories soon. OPEC output dropped for a fourth month in July, falling by 610,000 barrels a day to 27.32 million barrels a day, a survey showed. The 10 OPEC members who agreed to cuts are still producing 733,000 barrels a day more than their promised target.

Other monthly OPEC production surveys will likely be published this week by the Middle East Economic Survey, an influential industry weekly newsletter, and the International Energy Agency. OPEC countries cut production earlier this year to try and reduce the surplus, which has driven prices down 30% in the last year.



Gold $284.35 ▼ 2.1%

Crude Oil $12.78 ▼ 0.31%

CRB 204.93 ▼ 1.07%

Others

Copper for September delivery fell as much as 1.95 cents, or 2.5 percent, to 75.00 cents a pound on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange, as slumping car sales and a sliding yen in Japan fueled concern demand for the metal is declining. In Japan, the world's second-largest copper consumer, vehicle purchases have fallen for 16 months amid a recession and soaring unemployment, while a weak yen makes dollar-priced metals more expensive for manufacturers.

Copper has fallen more than 6% since rallying to its highest point in 2 1/2 months on July 24, partly on hopes that political changes in Japan would revive economic growth and copper consumption there. That optimism has faded as demand prospects dimmed.

Cocoa for September delivery fell as much as $30, or 1.9%, to $1,522 a metric ton on the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange. Ivory Coast Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan called on cocoa and coffee growers in Abidjan to market between 50% and 70% of their production, instead of the previously estimated 30%, during the 1998-99 marketing year, *Le Jour* newspaper reported. (Bloomberg)

US bonds rise as report suggests economy slowing

US bonds rose as a report on nationwide manufacturing indicated the economy is slowing and inflation is subdued.

The National Association of Purchasing Management's index of factory activity fell to 49.1 in July from 49.6 a month earlier, a bigger-than-expected decline. At the same time, its index of prices paid, an inflation gauge, fell to a 15-year low.

"Our outlook is still for lower yields," said David Jallits, who helps manage about $5.5 billion at Strategic Fixed Income in Arlington, Virginia, and sees 30-year bond yields falling to 5.5 percent in the months ahead. "Manufacturing is continuing to slow and there are no price pressures."

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 13/32, or $4.06 per $1,000 bond, pushing the yield down 3 basis points to 5.68%. The two-year note's yield fell 3 basis points, to 5.45%.

The NAPM report showed "some definitive weakness," said Kevin Flanagan, money market economist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Investors are looking for more signs that Asia's economic woes are slowing the US economy, keeping inflation low. That's good for bonds because inflation erodes their value.



US 30 -yearT-bill yield

5.68 ▼ 0.03

Treasury securities also got a lift from the US currency, which rose to a seven-week high against the yen as Japan's worsening economic slump dragged down stocks and currencies across Asia.

A stronger dollar draws international investors to the US because they expect bigger gains when converting investment returns to their home currencies. The dollar rose for a fourth day, to 145.64 yen from 144.75 yen late Friday.

A report Friday showed the US economy expanded at a 1.4% annual rate in the second quarter. While that was faster than expected, it was much slower than the 5.5% growth rate in the first quarter, reflecting the impact of Asia's economic crisis on the US. The measure of inflation used in calculating GDP, known as the price deflator, rose 0.9%, less than analysts forecast.

"I don't think we are likely to see inflation" anytime soon, said Charles Reinhard, a market strategist at ABN Amro International.

The government yesterday morning reported that consumer spending and incomes rose in June, a sign that strong domestic demand may offset Asia's economic drag in coming months. Spending rose 0.6% in June after increasing a revised 0.9% in May. (Bloomberg)

LONDON

	LAST	CHANGE
Allied Domecq	556	-3
BAT Inds	678	+1
BT	874	-13
BTR	156	+1.75
Barclays	1731	-30
Bass	987	-7
Boots	1020	+12
British Airways	620	-2
Comm Union plc	1192	+7
Diageo	712	-15
General Electric	475	-1
Glaxo	1869	-20
Halifax	727	+5.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1480	-35
ICI	790	+1
Land Securities	836	-3.5
Lloyds Bank	852	+16.5
Marks & Spencer	515	+4
NatWest Bank	1039	-23
Prudential	856	+16.5
Reuters	596	-8.5
Sainsbury	533	-8.5
Shell Transport	391	-1.25
Tyco Int	3900	-50
Unilever	596	-4.5
Zeneca	2286	-38

PARIS

	LAST	CHANGE
Accor	1521	-75
Air Liquide	940	-20
Alcatel Alsthom	1160	-25
Euro Disney	10.7	+0.2
Moulinex	129.3	+2.8
Pantas	643	-12
Pernod Ricard	414.6	-5.4
Peugeot	1126	-52
Saint Gobain	1001	-43

FRANKFURT

Bayer	78.7	-1
Daimler-Benz	177.4	-4.6
Lufthansa	47.25	-1.55
Mannesmann	183.7	-5.8
Metallgesellschaft	37.6	-0.3
Volkswagen	1581	-2

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 3-AUG-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Batm Advanced	186.5	-2
Dmatek Ltd.	29.5	±0
Pitat	42.5	±0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	±0

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 3-AUG-98)

	LAST	CHANGE
Southdown	51.1375	-1.375
Southern Co	25.625	+0.125
Sprint Corp	70.1375	-1.3125
Sprint Corp	69.25	-0.75
Standard Pacific	26.4375	-0.125
Stanley Works	42.9375	-0.75
Stone Container	12.9375	-0.125
Storage Technol	37.6875	-0.0625
Sysco Corp	33.75	+4.875
Sun America	2.8125	+0.125
Sunbeam Corp	8.8125	-0.0625
Sun Company	36.8125	-0.625
Supervalu	53.25	+1
Sybase Corp	47.4375	+0.1875
Sunshine Mining	0.8125	-0
Suntrust	71.125	-1.875
Superalu	49.0625	-0.5
Symantec	23.6875	-0.5625
Sysco Corp	23.875	-0.125
TJX Cos Inc	23.8125	+0.3125
TRW Inc	54	-0.1875
Tab Products	11.25	-0.5
Tandy Corp	57.0625	-0.25
Telecom Corp	40.25	-1.5
Telefonos de Mex	48.75	-1.0625
Tele De Espana	145	-0.5
Temple Inland	52.5625	-0.5
Tenneco	36.6875	+0.4375
Tenet Health	28.8125	-1.125
Teradyne	23	-0.0625
Texaco Pet	16	-0.0625
Texaco	58.3125	-1.875
Texas Instruments	60.125	-0.75
Texas Utilities	39.8125	-0.25
Textron	74	-0.125
Thiokol		
Thomas & Betts	40.3125	-0.6875
Threecom	24	-0.75
Time Warner	89.25	-1.0625
Times-Mirror	60.25	-0.125
Tenneco	53.1875	-0.375
Torchmark	43.875	-0.625
Tosco Corp	27.875	-0.125
Toys R Us	23.4375	+0.6875
Transamerica	118.813	+0.6875
Transco Energy	54.0625	-0.5625
Travelers Grp	65.3125	-1.9375
Tribune	58.625	+1.375
Triton Energy	17.1875	-0.4375
TWA	7.4375	-0.875
Tyco Int Ltd	52.4375	-0.5
Tyler	9.5	-0.0625
UAL Corp	77.1875	-0.6875
USG Corp	52	+0.625
UST Inc	27	+0
USX Marathon	33.25	-0.875
USX-US Steel	26.375	-0.625
Ultramar Diam	26.75	-0.5625
Unicorn Corp	35	+0.4375
Unilever PLC	39.9375	+0.0625
Unilever NV	60.625	-0.125
Union Camp	42.375	-0.0625
Union Carbide	47.6875	-0.3125
Union Pacific	41.75	-0.25
Unisys Corp	27.125	-0.3125
USAIR Group	76	+1
USF&G Corp		
US Home	36.75	-0.6875
US Surgical	45.625	+0.75
US Trust	79.75	-0.5625
US West	53.375	-0
United Tech	96.75	-0.875
Unocal Corp	32.5625	-0.1875
UF Corp	47.4375	+0.1875
VIRAX Pharmaceut	0.9375	-0.0625
Valero Energy	24	+0.0625
Varian Assoc	34.0625	-0.9375
Viacom Inc	56.625	-1.25
Vishay	12.875	-0.375
Vulcan Materials	114.625	-0.375
Wachovia	84	-1.375
Walgreen	43.9375	+0.6875
Wal-Mart Stores	61.625	-1.5
Warner-Lambert	75.4375	+0.0625
Wash Gas Light	24	+0.25
Washington Mutu	39.4375	-0.5
Washington Post	543.938	-0.5625
Waste Mgmnt Inc		
Wallons-Johnson	22.8125	-0.1875
Wes Markets	34.0625	-0.25
Wells Fargo	349	-5.875
Wendy's Intl	21.9375	-0.375
Westvaco	24.3125	-0.75
Weyerhaeuser	41.4375	-0.5625
Whirlpool	59.625	-0.875
Whitman	21.0625	-0.125
Williams Co	32.0625	-0.0625
Winn Dixie Strs	41.25	-0.125
Woolworth	13.8125	-0.75
World Comm	51.875	-1
Worthington Ind	14.0625	-0.375
Wrigley	89.875	+0.1875
Xerox	102.875	-2.6875
Yahoo	86.4375	+4.5625
Yellow Freight	16.0625	+0.0625
Zero Co	28	0

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Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem
Tel. 02-624-4963 Fax. 02-625-9515
http://www.commstock.co.il
E-mail: commstock@pobox.com

Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group
- Stock broking
- Equity research
- Money management
- Corporate finance

Tel. : 972-9-9585877
Telefax : 972-9-9585896
E-Mail : meiras@trendline.co.il
Contact : Elan Levi

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (3.8.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.8512	3.8134	—	—	3.8809
U.S. dollar	3.8173	3.8752	3.55	3.73	3.8450
German mark	2.0268	2.0595	1.99	2.09	2.0415
Pound sterling	5.8716	5.9664	5.77	6.05	5.9242
French franc	0.6045	0.6143	0.59	0.63	0.6088
Japanese yen (100)	2.4822	2.5223	2.43	2.56	2.5039
Dutch florin	1.7976	1.8266	1.76	1.86	1.8105
Swiss franc	2.4114	2.4503	2.37	2.49	2.4279
Swedish krona	0.4534	0.4608	0.44	0.47	0.4565
Norwegian krone	0.4770	0.4847	0.46	0.50	0.4802
Danish krone	0.5318	0.5404	0.52	0.55	0.5357
Finnish mark	0.6666	0.6774	0.65	0.69	0.6713
Canadian dollar	2.3870	2.4255	2.34	2.46	2.4079
Australian dollar	2.1812	2.2164	2.14	2.25	2.1965
S. African rand	0.5873	0.5968	0.53	0.60	0.5907
Belgian franc (10)	0.9827	0.9827	0.96	1.02	0.9898
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8804	2.9269	2.83	2.97	2.9020
Italian lira (1000)	2.0541	2.0873	2.01	2.12	2.0690
Jordanian dinar	5.0877	5.1698	4.84	5.18	5.1577
Egyptian pound	1.0300	1.1200	1.03	1.12	1.1208
ECU	3.9919	4.0563	—	—	4.0203
Irish punt	5.0913	5.1735	5.00	5.25	5.1282
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3867	2.4252	2.34	2.46	2.4032

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Tuesday, August 4

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Center Pharm Pa'amon, 3 King George, 623-3441; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040; Maccabi, 2 Balfour, 629-6856.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Magdiel, 54 Derech Magdiel, Hod Hasharon, 741-5567.
Netanya: Center Pharm, 1 King David, 884-1531.
Haifa: Hadas, 53 Horev, 826-2673.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

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FIRST AID 101
Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:
Ashdod* 8551333 Kfar Sava* 9902222
Ashkelon 6551332 Naharlya* 9912333
Beersheba* 6274767 Netanya* 8804444
Beit Shemesh 6523133 Petah Tikva* 9311111
Dan Region* 5793333 Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6332444 Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 8512233 Safed 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133 Tel Aviv* 5460111
Karmiel* 9985444 Tiberias* 6792444

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Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

WHERE TO GO

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HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call (02) 588-2819.
HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. (02) 641-6333, (02) 677-6271.

TEL AVIV
Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Nathan Gottesdiener Foundation Israeli Prize winner, Yoav Shmueli. From the Cabinet of Curiosities to Virtual Reality: The Museum – Past, Present and Future. "From Minimal to Conceptual Art" – Works from the Vogel Collection. "A Point of View" – children's exhibition. "The Eyes of the Nation" – Visual Art in a Country Without Boundaries, Political aspects of Israeli art of the Seventies. "The Boundaries of Language" – Anatomy of language in the visual arts. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Meyerhoff Art Education Center,** Tel. (03) 691-9155/8.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-

صكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Italy hoopsters upset Yugoslavia

ATHENS (AP) – Yugoslavia, favorites to win this World Championship, fell from the unbeaten ranks as Italy shocked the European champions 61-60 yesterday in a second-round game.

However, Yugoslavia (4-1) along with Lithuania, Greece and Spain are assured of reaching Friday's quarterfinal matchups with four more places still up for grabs.

The loss was the first major shock of this week-old championship and avenged a Yugoslavia victory over Italy last year in the final of European championship.

It was also Italy's first victory over Yugoslavia in a major tournament since the 1984 Olympics, when they won 74-61.

Italy (3-2) can thank Slovenian-born Gregor Fucka for the victory as he led the winners with 16 points and hit the two clinching free throws to put Italy ahead for the final time.

Yugoslavia had two shots at the end to win, but Milenko Topic's shot in the lane with 2.5 seconds left bounded off the rim and Sasha Obradovic missed from further out at the buzzer.

The Italians, who forced the usually tidy Yugoslav into 20 turnovers, will face Puerto Rico today with a quarterfinal berth on the line.

Lithuania, bronze medalists in the last two Olympics, booked its place in the quarterfinals with a second-round victory over Argentina 84-75.

Lithuania (4-1) led Argentina (2-3) almost from the start and was up 41-33 at halftime and then pulled away. Salulis Stombergas had 19 to lead the Lithuanians with 14 from Darius Lukminas. The team's top scorer in the tournament – Arturas Karnisovas had 11.

Australia (3-2) improved it chances of reaching the quarterfinals with a tough 75-63 come-from-behind victory over Brazil (1-4) and will face the US today in final qualification-round game.

Australia trailed 35-31 at halftime, out-scored Brazil 15-4 in the first four minutes of the second half, taking a 46-39 lead at 15:59 on a 3-pointer by Andrew Gaze. Gaze was held scoreless in the first half but finished with 16 behind Paul Rogers' 20.

Puerto Rico (2-3) also stayed alive for a quarterfinal berth with a 94-81 victory over Canada (1-4).

Eddie Casiano topped Puerto Rico with 23 and Jose Ortiz added 15 and 10 rebounds. The Canadians were led by Greg Newton with 25 points and eight rebounds.

Russia (4-1) beat Greece 60-48 and the US (4-1) edged Spain 75-73 last night. Both winners are widely touted as the most likely to reach the final eight with the last two places up for grabs among Italy, Argentina, Puerto Rico and Australia. The US and Russia both ended their opponents' perfect 4-0 marks.

In games to determine 13th to 16th place, Nigeria claimed 13th with a 70-60 victory over Japan. Senegal finished 15th, beating South Korea 75-72.



FOUL PLAY – Argentina's Hugo Schonochini grimaces as he is fouled by Lithuania's Arturas Karnisovas in first-half action. Lithuania won 84-75. (Reuters)

County Championship

Results on the final day of four-day English County Championship cricket matches yesterday:

At Derby: Match drawn. Kent 165 (P.DeFreitas 5-55; K.Dean 4-52) and 129-5 (M.Ealham 61 not out). Derbyshire 280 (R.Weston 97; D.Headley 5-64). Derbyshire 9 points, Kent 7.

At Southampton: Match drawn. Durham 203 (A.Morris 4-30) and 332-9 (M.Speight 97 not out, D.Boon 54, J.Morris 50). Hampshire 396 (R.Smith 134, A.Aymes 54). Hampshire 11 points, Durham 8.

At Old Trafford: Match drawn. Leicestershire 218-7 (A.Habib 56) v Lancashire. Lancashire 6 points, Leicestershire 4.

At Trent Bridge: Match drawn. Northamptonshire 346 (M.Loye 103, R.Montgomerie 54; P.Strang 4-92). Nottinghamshire 380-5 (P.Johnson 105, U.Afzaal 103 not out, G.Welton 55; P.Taylor 4-62). Nottinghamshire 11 points, Northamptonshire 8.

At Worcester: Yorkshire beat Worcestershire by an innings and 160 runs. Yorkshire 455-9 declared (D.Lehmann 200, M.Wood 94, A.Mcgrath 50). Worcestershire 201 and 94 (D.Gough 5-36, G.Hamilton 4-17). Yorkshire 24 points, Worcestershire 4.

English County Championship

	P	W	L	D	bat	bowl	tot
1. Surrey	12	7	3	2	30	42	190
2. Leics	11	6	0	6	25	27	150
3. Glocs	10	6	3	1	10	39	148
4. Yorkshire	11	4	2	5	30	39	148
5. Lancashire	11	5	1	5	18	34	147
6. Kent	11	4	2	5	10	38	127
7. Hampshire	11	3	3	5	19	39	121
8. Sussex	11	3	4	4	19	40	119
9. Durham	11	3	5	3	18	42	117
10. Worcs	10	3	3	4	21	32	113
11. Warks	11	3	6	2	18	38	110
12. Glamorgan	11	2	4	5	23	35	105
13. Notts	12	2	6	4	18	43	105
14. Somerset	10	3	4	3	21	26	104
15. Northants	11	2	2	7	22	28	103
16. Derbyshire	10	3	5	2	17	30	101
17. Middlesex	11	2	4	5	19	30	96
18. Essex	11	2	5	4	11	37	92

Jonk joins Sheffield Wednesday

LONDON (AP, Reuters) – Dutch World Cup midfielder Wim Jonk will join Premier League soccer team Sheffield Wednesday in a £2.5m transfer from PSV Eindhoven, the English club said yesterday.

Sheffield Wednesday secretary Graham Mackrell confirmed that Jonk had signed a three-year contract and would arrive at Hillsborough today.

Jonk was a key member of the Netherlands' World Cup squad – semifinalists at France 98 – and had been linked with moves to Tottenham and Nottingham Forest before signing with the Owls.

The 31-year-old international is Danny Wilson's first major signing since he became manager at Hillsborough last month.

Gillespie transfer falls through

Northern Ireland international Keith Gillespie's proposed £3.5 million transfer from Newcastle to Middlesbrough fell through yesterday when he failed a medical.

Gillespie had agreed terms for a five-year deal with 'Boro but the club withdrew its offer due to concerns over an ankle injury the player sustained before last season's FA Cup final.

The 23-year-old had planned to partner ex-England international Paul Gascoigne in midfield for Middlesbrough but will now stay with Newcastle.

Newcastle criticized Middlesbrough's handling of the proposed transfer after news of the deal was released before Newcastle boss Kenny Dalglish had been notified or Gillespie had undertaken the medical.

SPORTS *in brief*

Testing for drugs saves a life

Former Australian Olympic field hockey player Greg Corbitt is thanking a drug test and astute diagnosis by national team doctor Tony Galvin for early detection of a malignant tumor.

Corbitt, 26, was in a Perth hospital yesterday to have the tumor removed, a day after scoring four goals for local side Victoria Park in his last game for the year.

A member of Australia's silver medal-winning 1992 Barcelona Olympic team, Corbitt was found to have the cancer – details of which have not been revealed – after a routine urine sample taken by the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) on June 21 showed a foreign hormone.

Had the ASDA not asked for a urine sample I would have continued to live my life without knowing I have cancer before it was too late," Corbitt said. (AP)

Another arrest in beating of French officer

German police have arrested another suspect in the brutal beating of a French police officer during the World Cup, and said yesterday their investigation was not yet over.

Christopher R., 23, of Erkner, was arrested over the weekend in Berlin and was being transferred to Hanover, where the investigation is centered, the Hanover prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Like the three other suspects still in custody, he was charged with joint attempted murder and causing serious bodily harm as well as disturbing the peace.

Prosecutors said they believed they had most of the suspects, but added that their investigation remained open.

The June 21 clash in Lens, France, between German soccer hooligans and French police left 44-year-old officer Daniel Nivel in a coma. (Reuters)

Dutch striker remaining with AC Milan

Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert has turned down an offer from Manchester United to remain with AC Milan, the Italian soccer club reported yesterday.

The 22-year-old forward reached his decision during a meeting in Amsterdam with his agent and Milan's director-general, Ariedo Bradia.

Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards said Thursday that Milan had accepted an offer, worth a reported £9 million for the Dutchman, who starred for his country during the World Cup in France. Kluivert's contract links him to the club through June 30, 2001. (AP)

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Fallen Angel

A year after cocaine bust, Tony Phillips deserves a second chance

MY CALL

By RANDY HARVEY

NEW YORK – A year ago next Monday, Tony Phillips was caught by police in an Anaheim, California, hotel room with $30 worth of rock cocaine and a crack pipe. He let down society. Society got over it. He let down his Anaheim Angel teammates. They didn't.

They were involved in a race for the American League West division title when Phillips was arrested on August 10, one they probably wouldn't have won anyway after subsequent injuries to Chuck Finley and Todd Greene. But the distractions created by Phillips' bust, his suspension and the ensuing legal battle that enabled him to return to the field after 10 games guaranteed it.

No evidence was ever presented to indicate Phillips was a habitual drug user, which made the crime he committed against his teammates even harder to justify. If he had an addiction, like Steve Howe, then at least he would have deserved some sympathy. Not in this case. His act was stupid and irresponsible.

You want to know something else? Phillips wouldn't disagree with a word you've read so far.

"I did something very, very not smart," he said while sitting at his locker in the New York Mets' clubhouse a couple of hours before Sunday's game at Shea Stadium against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Phillips also knows he paid for his poor judgment.

"I got my ... dragged through the dirt," he said. "I exposed my family to pain they didn't deserve. I put my teammates in a situation they didn't deserve. I spent a night in jail. I was out of baseball for nine months. You're damn right I was penalized."

Now, 51 weeks after his arrest, Phillips is back in a playoff race.

He signed as a free agent last month with the Toronto Blue Jays, who traded him within hours of Friday night's trading deadline to the Mets.

As ordered by the court after he pleaded guilty in November to one count of cocaine possession, Phillips, the player, has completed 32 hours of an anti-drug educational program.

If he remains clean – and we probably will know if he doesn't because major league baseball requires him to submit to three urine tests a week – his felony drug violation will be expunged from his record next May.

The Mets were one of four teams that approached Phillips before this season, but their offer, like the other three, was for considerably less than the $2.2 million he earned last season with the Chicago White Sox and Angels.

He rejected them all, not because he needed more money, he said Sunday, but because he needed the respect that more money represents.

It's a fine distinction, but one that was important to him.

"I'm a 5-foot-8, 160-pound guy who's been good enough to play 16 years in the major leagues and win a World Series ring," he said. "I made a mistake. No question about it. But I still have my dignity."

If circumstances had been different, Phillips would have been the lead-off hitter the Angels could use to help stave off the Texas Rangers in the race for this season's A.L. West title. Although he will turn 40 before next season, he said Sunday he had looked forward to signing a contract that would have allowed him to play two or three more seasons in Anaheim.

He said he knew that would be impossible as soon as Disney's chairman, Michael Eisner, became the final arbiter in Phillips' future with the Angels.

"The guys I dress with every day for eight months, they know I'll go to war with them," he said. "I have their respect, and I know they would have been for giving me a second chance.

"But Eisner never even spoke to me after the incident. He's Mr. Family Values, but he never once said, 'How's your family? How are you doing?' His whole thing is just one big P.R. gig."

Phillips was booed in his first game with the Mets on Saturday night, not because of his cocaine bust but because he went 0 for 4 and struck out twice.

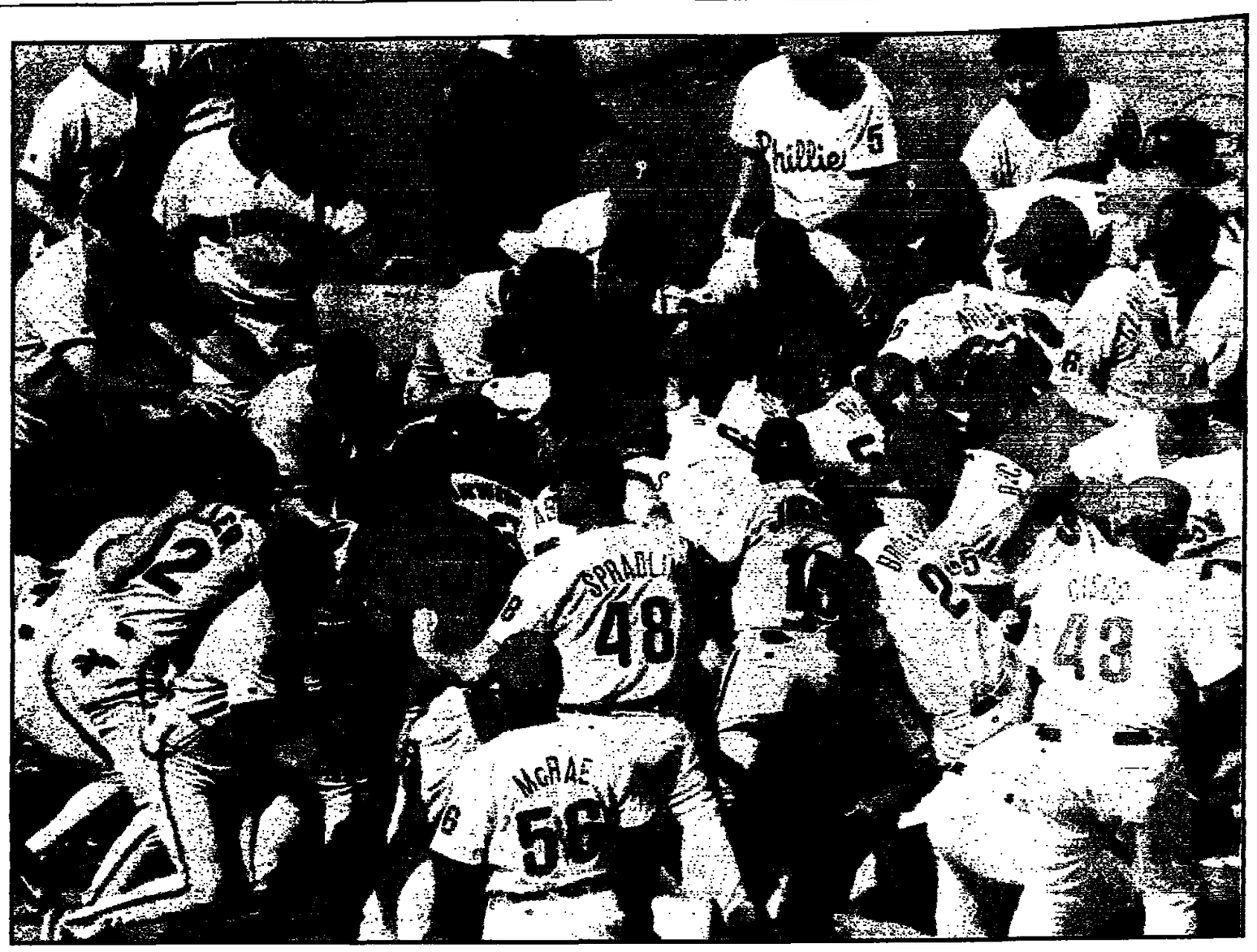
On Sunday, he doubled to lead off the Met first, scored two runs in their 9-3 win over the Dodgers and was cheered.

"I can help this team," he said. "I could have helped the Angels."

Although his bitterness at Disney is understandable, the Angels were right to let him go because his behavior with them was unacceptable. Signing him to a new contract would have been the wrong message to send to their players and fans.

But baseball wase right to bring him back. He deserved that second chance.

(Los Angeles Times)



PHILLY RHUBARB – Players pour onto Veterans' Stadium after Giants batter Barry Bonds was hit by a pitch. It was reliever Ricky Bottalico's first – and last – pitch of the game. Both Bonds and Bottalico were ejected. The Giants won in a 15-3 rout. (Reuters)

Clemens fans 14: Johnson is *Astro*nomical

MINNEAPOLIS (Reuters) – Four-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens continued his bid for a fifth on Sunday as "the Rocket" struck out a season-high 14 in a 6-4 Toronto Blue Jays victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Clemens (14-6) allowed just one earned run and six hits over eight innings to earn his ninth straight win.

"Roger was awful tough. He made a lot of guys look bad," said Twins manager Tom Kelly.

Clemens struck out at least 10 for the 87th time in his career, including striking out the side in the seventh.

Shawn Green enjoyed his first career four-hit game with a solo homer off Brad Radke (10-9) in the seventh and three singles for Toronto. Jose and Carlos Delgado drove in two runs apiece for the Jays.

Rangers 12, White Sox 3

Lee Stevens hit a two-run homer and Roberto Kelly, Todd Zeile and Rusty Greer added solo shots to power host Texas to the top of the American League West.

Stevens and Ivan Rodriguez each drove in three runs for the Rangers, who moved a game ahead of second-place Anaheim.

Mariners 6, Yankees 3

Jay Buhner belted a two-run homer and knocked in three runs as host Seattle snapped a five-game losing streak and denied David Cone his 16th win.

Buhner delivered an RBI single in the third to give the Mariners a 3-1 lead and his eighth homer extended the margin to 6-1 in the seventh.

Paul O'Neill and Chad Curtis smacked solo homers for the Yankees.

Red Sox 8, Angels 7

Mo Vaughn belted a two-run homer, Nomar Garciaparra drove in a pair of runs and John Valentin collected three hits and scored three times as surging Boston completed a three-game road sweep.

The Red Sox jumped on Angels starter Jason Dickson for four runs in the first and never trailed. Dickson (9-9) was tagged for eight runs and nine hits over six innings.

The Boston bullpen came through for Wakefield as Greg Swindell and Dennis Eckersley each worked a scoreless inning and Tom Gordon gave up a run in the ninth before holding on for his league-leading 31st save in 32 chances.

Athletics 7, Indians 5

Matt Stairs's three-run homer capped a five-run seventh inning and lifted Oakland to a home victory and a three-game sweep of the Indians, their first whitewash of the season.

Orioles 9, Royals 2

Rookie Sidney Ponson allowed two runs over seven innings and Jeffrey Hammonds contributed three hits and two RBI as Baltimore coasted to a road victory.

Ponson (5-6) allowed eight hits, while walking four and striking out six to win his fourth straight decision after losing five of his first six major-league starts.

Tigers 3, Devil Rays 2

Rookie Brian Powell allowed four hits over seven innings and Bobby Higginson hit a three-run homer to lift Detroit Tigers to an away win.

New League, new team, same old Randy Johnson.

The longtime Seattle Mariners ace made an impressive debut with visiting Houston. "The Big Unit" recorded 12 strikeouts while walking just one and allowed two runs on six hits.

The left-hander, who was acquired from Seattle just before Friday night's trading deadline, could have been a loser in his Astros debut, but his new teammates rallied for four runs in the eighth to make a winner out of him.

"For a while, I might have the advantage over in this league because they don't know about me," Johnson said.

Padres 4, Expos 1

Andy Ashby allowed one run and six hits over eight innings to become the National League's first 15-game winner backed up by three Padres home runs.

Ashby (15-6) struck out five and walked one for his fifth win in his last six starts. Closer Trevor Hoffman worked a 1-2-3 ninth to notch his 36th save for San Diego.

Giants 15, Phillies 3

Barry Bonds went 4-for-4 with a homer and three RBI and Ellis Burks homered and drove in four runs as visiting San Francisco pounded the Philadelphia in a game marred by two bench-clearing incidents.

Bonds, who also tripled and had a pair of RBI singles, was ejected in the seventh for charging the mound after he was hit by a pitch from Ricky Bottalico, who also was ejected.

In the bottom of the inning, San Francisco's Kirk Rueter (12-6) hit Alex Arias with a pitch. Arias charged the mound and was ejected, but Rueter, who allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings with no walks, remained in the game.

Braves 4, Cardinals 3

Kevin Millwood and two relievers combined on a six-hitter as the Braves pitching staff once again kept St Louis slugger Mark McGwire from making any noise



THE BIG UNIT – Randy Johnson in his debut with the Houston Astros. (Reuters)

in a home victory.

McGwire, who leads the major leagues with 45 homers, went 0-for-11 with seven strikeouts in the three-game series.

Mets 9, Dodgers 3

Armando Reynoso gave up only one unearned run over seven innings and Butch Huskey hit a two-run homer in a five-run third inning before leaving the game with an injury as the Mets thumped the visitors.

Reds 5, Marlins 1

Dennis Reyes struck out a career-high nine and allowed three hits over six innings in his Cincinnati debut and Pat Watkins and Guillermo Garcia homered to power the Reds to a road victory.

Brewers 7, Diamondbacks 2

Brad Woodall allowed five hits over seven innings to notch his first win in more than a month and Darrin Jackson and Mike Matheny belted solo homers in the third inning as Milwaukee won at home.

Woodall (5-5) surrendered one run, walked three and struck out a career-high eight to shut down the expansion Diamondbacks.

Fernando Vina's RBI groundout sparked a three-run second against Arizona starter Brian Anderson (7-10), who also surrendered both homers in the third.

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Houston 000 100 041–6 10 0
Pittsburgh 000 010 100–2 6 1
R.Johnson, Elarton (8) and Ausmus; Van Poppel, Christiansen (8), McCurry (9) and Kendall. W–R.Johnson, 1-0. L–Christiansen, 1-2. Sv–Elarton (2). HR–Pittsburgh, A.Ramirez (5).

Los Angeles 100 000 002–3 5 2
New York 105 000 03x–9 10 1
Bohanon, Judd (7) and Prince; Reynoso, Wendell (8) and Piazza, Fabregas (9). W–Reynoso, 2-0. L–Bohanon, 4-7. HR–New York, Huskey (12).

Arizona 001 000 010–2 7 0
Milwaukee 032 020 00x–7 10 1
Bn.Anderson, Manuel (5), Small (7), Chouinard (8) and Miller; Woodall, Weathers (8) and Matheny. W–Woodall, 5-5. L–Bn.Anderson, 7-10. HRs–Arizona, Miller (2). Milwaukee, Dr.Jackson (4), Matheny (5).

San Francisco 150 213 210–15 19 0
Philadelphia 000 210 000–3 7 0
Rueter, Brock (8) and Mayne; Welch, Y.Perez (4), Bottalico (7), Ryan (7) and Parent. W–Rueter, 12-6. L–Welch, 0-1. HRs–San Francisco, Burks (17), Bonds (21), J.Kent (15), Snow (13). Philadelphia, Rolen (22), A.Arias (1).

Colorado 000 021 300–6 11 1
Chicago 111 000 000–3 6 0
Astacio, McElroy (8) and J.Reed; M.Clark, Fossas (7), Stevens (7), Mulholland (8) and Servais. W–Astacio, 10-10. L–M.Clark, 6-11. Sv–McElroy (2). HR–Chicago, B.Brown (13).

Cincinnati 101 000 021–5 9 1
Florida 001 000 000–1 6 1
D.Reyes, Graves (7) and G.Garcia; Ojala, Speier (8) and Redmond, Zaun (8). W–D.Reyes, 1-4. L–Ojala, 1-2. Sv–Graves (3). HRs–Cincinnati, Watkins (2), G.Garcia (2).

Rockies 6, Cubs 3

Pedro Astacio pitched seven innings to win his third straight start and Neifi Perez had two hits and two RBI as Colorado Rockies overcame a 3-0 deficit for a road victory.

Astacio (10-10) gave up three runs and eight hits as Colorado won for just the second time in its last 13 road games.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 000 030 000–3 10 1
Tampa Bay 001 010 000–2 6 0
B.Powell, Runyan (8), Brocail (8), To.Jones (9) and Bako; Rekar, Aldred (7), Mecir (8) and DiFelice. W–B.Powell, 2-2. L–Rekar, 1-3. Sv–To.Jones (19). HR–Detroit, Higginson (20).

Baltimore 104 200 101–9 16 0
Kansas City 000 020 000–2 8 1
Ponson, A.Benitez (8) and Webster; Rusch, Pittsley (5), Bones (8) and Fasano. W–Ponson, 5-6. L–Rusch, 6-14. HR–Baltimore, Hammonds (6).

Toronto 000 103 011–6 12 1
Minnesota 010 000 012–4 9 0
Clemens, Plesac (9), Quantrill (9), Ra.Myers (9) and Fletcher; Radke, Guardado (8), Trombley (8) and Steinbach. W–Clemens, 14-8. L–Radke, 10-9. Sv–Ra.Myers (28). HR–Toronto, S.Green (20).

Cleveland 100 022 000–5 9 1
Oakland 000 011 50x–7 8 2
Nagy, Assenmacher (7), Shuey (8) and S.Alomar; Haynes, Mohler (7), Fetters (8), Groom (8), Taylor (9) and Macfarlane, Hinch (8). W–Mohler, 3-2. L–Nagy, 8-7. Sv–Taylor (23). HRs–Cleveland, Lofton (11), Oakland, Stairs (19), Giambi (16), Sprague (18).

Chicago 200 000 010–3 10 2
Texas 112 410 03x–12 17 1
Navarro, B.Ward (4), C.Castillo (6), Howry (7), Simas (8), Eyre (8) and Machado; Sele, D.Patterson (9) and I.Rodriguez. Haselman (9). W–Sele, 13-8. L–Navarro, 8-13. HRs–Texas, Greer (9), Zeile (2), Stevens (15), R.Kelly (8).

New York 100 010 100–3 9 0
Seattle 012 100 20x–6 9 1
Cone, Borowski (8) and Posada; Spoljaric, B.Wells (5), McCarthy (6), Ayala (7), Timlin (8) and J.Oliver. W–B.Wells, 1-2. L–Cone, 15-4. Sv–Timlin (6). HRs–New York, O'Neill (15). Curtis (9). Seattle, Buhner (8).

Boston 401 012 000–8 10 1
Anaheim 000 008 001–7 9 1
Wakefield, Garces (8), C.Reyes (8), Swindell (7), Eckersley (8), Gordon (9) and Hatteberg; Dickson, Cadaret (7), Hasegawa (8) and Nevin. W–Wakefield, 13-5. L–Dickson, 9-9. Sv–Gordon (31). HRs–Boston, M.Vaughn (27). Anaheim, G.Anderson (12).

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING–TWalker, Minnesota, .353; BWilliams, New York, .348; IRodriguez, Texas, .335; Segui, Seattle, .334; MVaughn, Boston, .332; Stairs, Oakland, .326; Garciaparra, Boston, .325.

RUNS–Griffey Jr, Seattle, 93; Durham, Chicago, 84; Thome, Cleveland, 82; DJeter, New York, 81; ARodriguez, Seattle, 81; JnValentin, Boston, 79; Edmonds, Anaheim, 77.

RBI–JuGonzalez, Texas, 116; Belle, Chicago, 95; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 94; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 90; ARodriguez, Seattle, 89; MRamirez, Cleveland, 88; Garciaparra, Boston, 86.

HITS–ARodriguez, Seattle, 141; Erstad, Anaheim, 138; Higginson, Detroit, 137; GAnderson, Anaheim, 134; MVaughn, Boston, 133; IRodriguez, Texas, 133; Segui, Seattle, 132.

HOME RUNS–Griffey Jr, Seattle, 41; ARodriguez, Seattle, 33; Belle, Chicago, 33; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 33; JuGonzalez, Texas, 31; Canseco, Toronto, 31; Thome, Cleveland, 29.

STOLEN BASES–Henderson, Oakland, 46; Stewart, Toronto, 33; Lofton, Cleveland, 33; ARodriguez, Seattle, 30; TGoodwin, Texas, 29; Offerman, Kansas City, 28; BLHunter, Detroit, 27.

PITCHING (13 Decisions)–DWells, New York, 13-2, .867, 3.57; PMartinez, Boston, 15-3, .833, 2.84; Cone, New York, 15-4, .789, 3.54; Rogers, Oakland, 11-4, .733, 2.87; Wakefield, Boston, 13-5, .722, 4.34; Irabu, New York, 10-4, .714, 3.22; Helling, Texas, 14-6, .700, 4.59; Clemens, Toronto, 14-6, .700, 3.12.

STRIKEOUTS–RJohnson, Seattle, 213; PMartinez, Boston, 170; Clemens, Toronto, 162; CFinley, Anaheim, 154; Cone, New York, 145; Erickson, Baltimore, 130; Sele, Texas, 123.

SAVES–Gordon, Boston, 31; MRivera, New York, 29; Percival, Anaheim, 29; Wetteland, Texas, 28; RaMyers, Toronto, 28; MJackson, Cleveland, 27; Aguilera, Minnesota, 27.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING–LWalker, Colorado, .347; Olerud, New York, .340; Bichette, Colorado, .338; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .336; VGuerrero, Montreal, .333; DeBell, Houston, .327; Cirillo, Milwaukee, .324.

RUNS–ChJones, Atlanta, 90; Biggio, Houston, 88; Glanville, Philadelphia, 85; GVaughn, San Diego, 85; McGwire, St. Louis, 85; Bagwell, Houston, 81; Sosa, Chicago, 80.

RBI–Sosa, Chicago, 108; McGwire, St. Louis, 100; Castilla, Colorado, 97; Alou, Houston, 93; GVaughn, San Diego, 91; Bichette, Colorado, 90; Galarraga, Atlanta, 86.

HITS–Bichette, Colorado, 156; Glanville, Philadelphia, 144; VGuerrero, Montreal, 143; DeBell, Houston, 143; Biggio, Houston, 141; Castilla, Colorado, 138; ChJones, Atlanta, 134.

HOME RUNS–McGwire, St. Louis, 45; Sosa, Chicago, 42; GVaughn, San Diego, 38; Castilla, Colorado, 35; Galarraga, Atlanta, 33; Alou, Houston, 28; HRodriguez, Chicago, 27.

STOLEN BASES–Womack, Pittsburgh, 41; Renteria, Florida, 35; Biggio, Houston, 34; EcYoung, Los Angeles, 33; Floyd, Florida, 24; QVeras, San Diego, 19; Clayton, St. Louis, 19; Bonds, San Francisco, 19.

PITCHING (13 Decisions)–KBrown, San Diego, 13-3, .812, 2.71; Glavine, Atlanta, 14-4, .778, 2.61; GMaddux, Atlanta, 14-5, .737, 1.61; Ashby, San Diego, 15-6, .714, 2.55; ALeiter, New York, 10-4, .714, 2.16; Wood, Chicago, 11-5, .687, 3.01; Trachsel, Chicago, 11-5, .687, 3.87.

STRIKEOUTS–Schilling, Philadelphia, 214; Wood, Chicago, 179; KBrown, San Diego, 169; Stottlemyre, St. Louis, 147; GMaddux, Atlanta, 145; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 131; Nomo, New York, 130.

SAVES–Hoffman, San Diego, 36; Beck, Chicago, 32; Shaw, Los Angeles, 32; Nen, San Francisco, 28; Urbina, Montreal, 24; BWagner, Houston, 22; JFranco, New York, 21.

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	74	38	.661	—
New York	58	50	.537	14
Philadelphia	55	54	.505	17½
Montreal	43	68	.387	30½
Florida	39	73	.348	35
Central Division				
Houston	67	44	.604	—
Chicago	63	49	.563	4½
Milwaukee	56	55	.505	11
St. Louis	51	59	.464	15½
Pittsburgh	50	61	.450	17
Cincinnati	50	62	.446	17½
West Division				
San Diego	72	39	.649	—
San Francisco	60	51	.541	12
Los Angeles	57	54	.514	15
Colorado	49	62	.441	23
Arizona	41	70	.369	31

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	77	28	.733	—
Boston	65	44	.596	14
Baltimore	56	55	.505	24
Toronto	56	56	.500	24½
Tampa Bay	43	65	.398	35½
Central Division				
Cleveland	62	48	.564	—
Minnesota	51	58	.468	10½
Kansas City	49	61	.445	13
Chicago	47	62	.431	14½
Detroit	46	63	.422	15½
West Division				
Texas	59	51	.536	—
Anaheim	58	52	.527	1
Oakland	50	60	.455	9
Seattle	49	61	.445	10

Delivering the goods: Eldredge, Kwan, Johnson excelled in Goodwill Games

NEW YORK (AP) – When the Goodwill Games settled in New York for 15 days, Ted Turner's mini-Olympics had three primary objectives.

Fortunately, none of them involved making money.

Michael Plant, president of the games, said their intention was to produce interesting and compelling television through sports, give New York and Long Island a peek at world-class athletes, and generate programs and financial resources for children.

The games accomplished all of that, although most of it was done in privacy.

Even though high-profile names were sprinkled throughout the competition, they proved to be a tough sell. Even Olympians such as Todd Eldredge and Michelle Kwan could only attract 5,000 fans to the figure skating at Nassau Coliseum. Only when organizers cut upper-level ticket prices to $5 were they able to sell out the building.

"Looking at New York, we were not naive enough to believe that we would sell out ... every night," Plant said. "This is a very busy time of year – and a challenging market in which to generate spectators. It takes a while to develop a following here. Overall, we think we have accomplished the objective of maximizing the number of spectators."

Television provided better numbers for the organizers.

Through last Wednesday, Goodwill Games telecasts on the WTBS averaged 1.5, slightly higher than for Atlanta Braves games on the superstation and up 25 percent from the 1994 games in St. Petersburg, Russia.

For their part, the big-name athletes came through.

Kwan and Eldredge won gold medals with sparkling performances. So did the other major players, including Michael Johnson, Jackie Joyner-Kersee and Dan O'Brien in track and field; Cuban heavyweight boxer Felix Savon; swimmers Jenny Thompson and Aleksandr Popov; and the US basketball, wrestling and women's soccer teams.

Their successes, however, must be balanced with the tragic accident that left Chinese gymnast Sang Lan paralyzed and cast a pall over that competition. There was also a brief political protest that interrupted the United States-Iran wrestling match.

Sang remains in Mount Sinai Hospital, beginning rehabilitation for her spinal cord injury. Doctors have said it is unlikely she will ever walk again. Her tragedy created more attention than many of the athletic events.

Plant, however, remained upbeat about the games.

"International sport is something that very few companies are putting forth the effort to support," he said. "We provide an opportunity for world class athletes to compete. Certainly, there are the Olympic Games and the World Championships and other types of competitions, but it drops off significantly from there. These games are an important franchise of the Time Warner company."

So the games press on, with the next edition set for 2001 in Brisbane, Australia. There will be 12 sports plus surf-lifesaving instead of 15, with wrestling, water polo, synchronized swimming and soccer dropped, and the games will last 12 days instead of 15.

There also are plans for a winter edition, the first probably in Lake Placid, N.Y., in 2000.

Plant said Goodwill officials will have an operational plan in place for Brisbane within six months and a joint marketing plan set by March 1.

That means that despite the losses, Turner and Time Warner are happy with the event, which generated $5 million for the Boys & Girls Clubs and UNICEF, its target charities.

"We always use the word 'investment,'" Plant said when asked about losses. "We still believe at the end of the day, this will be the most financially successful games.

"We will not discuss any final tally of revenue or expenses, as is the policy with any other project of the company. The people at the top are pleased with the results of the '98 games."

And that's why there will be Goodwill again in 2001.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

There are two offerings tonight by the Israel Vocal Arts Institute summer opera program. The regular mini opera production at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv is Mozart's comic romp *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* ("The Abduction from the Seraglio"), about love and clemency, is presented at 8. At 8:30 at the Levin Jaffa Music Center you can enjoy an evening of opera delights with sensational soprano Ljuba Kazarnovskaya with program director Joan Dornemann at the piano.

It's a tough choice and whatever you choose you will have a great time.

The International Piano Masterclasses in Kfar Blum continue today with a class presented by Michael Boguslavsky at 4 p.m and tomorrow with one presented by Spanish pianist Jose Ribera at the same time. Tomorrow evening at 8:30 there is a concert by the participants of these masterclasses.



Sara Levi-Tanai presents two of her dancers at the Israel Museum. (Jonathan Bloom)

performers. The great Sara Levi-Tanai, the founder of the Inbal Dance Theater, will present two of her original dancers, Zvia Bar and Moti Abramov, at 6:30 in the auditorium. At 8:30 Sahara plays Moroccan music in the sculpture garden and at 9 Tea Packs appears in the same place with its show *A Kiss for Uncle*. If you're still game at 11 p.m., you can hear Yair Dallal and Allul in the big tent. Enjoy!

ETHNIC

HELEN KAYE

The Israel Museum is hosting a marathon evening of Oriental music in honor of the "Forward the East" exhibition. The evening starts at 5:30 with the Altablin drummers from Shfaram among the

ROCK

HELEN KAYE

Fresh from gigs in New York, Oren Alkalay will be singing his unique brand of folk rock at Barbi, 8 Yona Hanavi, (near the Opera Tower) at 10 p.m.

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Vacation TV
9:45 Enigma
10:10 Hot Shots
10:35 Wayne Manifesto
11:00 Okavango
11:25 Hot Science
11:50 Platius
12:00 Vacation TV
14:30 Star Trek – Deep Space 9
15:15 Spaceship Earth

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Zap Free
15:35 X Men
15:55 Zap – Country Vacation
16:05 Lassie
16:30 Zap – Festival at Chevrolet
16:45 Zap – seaside vacation
16:59 New Evening
17:35 Zap Free
17:50 USA High 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropos
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 A Moment in Life
19:35 Gregory Hines
20:00 News
20:10 Talk of the Day
20:25 Are You Being Served?
21:00 News
21:30 Summer Jubilee
21:55 Lotto Draw
22:00 Summer Jubilee - contd.
23:05 Grace Under Fire
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Animation
6:43 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
10:30 Super Duper
11:00 Popeye and Son
11:30 League from Another World
12:00 Enid Blyton
12:30 Father on Parole
13:00 My Secret Identity
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Calculated Risk
14:30 Sesame Street
15:00 Tush Tush
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Reshet
17:30 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
18:00 Viper
19:00 Pacific Blue
20:00 News
20:30 Focus
21:05 Summer on the Beach
22:30 Basic Training
23:25 Wild Bill (1995) – story of the WildWest legend. With Jeff Bridges and Ellen Barkin
00:00 News
00:05 Wild Bill – contd.

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

15:00 Holy Koran
15:10 Prostar
15:30 Star Runner
16:00 Bordertown
16:30 Girlie, It's You
17:00 Skeleton Beach
18:00 French programs
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Show
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Stepfather, Stepmother
20:00 What Would You Do?
20:30 Encounter
21:00 Current Affairs
21:15 Rhodes
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie
00:30 Metro Café

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Arthur
17:20 Madeleine
17:45 Superbook 2
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Ed Sullivan
20:25 Acapulco Heat
21:15 The Cape
22:05 Sirenes
23:00 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Animation
16:45 Amores
17:30 From Day To Day
18:00 Animation
19:00 Arabic News
19:30 Entertainment Now
20:00 American History
20:30 Showcase
21:00 News
21:30 Telekassel
22:00 Mysteries of our Century
22:45 Cinema 3

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Boogie's Diner
16:00 Summer Studio
16:45 Local Pop
17:00 Rosewood and Olive
17:30 Nature and Science
18:00 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 Comedy Company
19:25 Little Big Country
19:30 New Evening
20:00 Mirror
20:30 Through Our Eyes
20:55 Little Big Country
21:00 Howard Hodgkin – a profile of the celebrated British artist
22:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9
22:45 Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 E!:TV: Latin Beat
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live (rpt)
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Angels Don't Cry
12:00 Ricki Lake
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Cafe Paris
18:00 Trivia King (rpt)
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch
20:50 Suddenly Susan
21:10 Suddenly Susan
21:35 Dreams of Youth
22:00 Suddenly Susan
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Sentinel
00:30 Renegade
1:20 Love Boat

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Shadow of the Past (1995) – a has-been rodeo star returns to his home town seven years after being involved in an accident. The sheriff, who still believes him responsible for that accident, now tries to frame him for another death
13:10 Cover-Up (1949) – an insurance investigator trying to uncover the truth behind a suicide in a small town finds himself up against the entire town. With William Bendix
14:35 Captain Jack (1995) – a small-town football star masquerades at night as a super-hero and battles crime
16:25 The Fifth Monkey (1990) – tale of a rare-animal hunter and his adventures as he takes his rare chimps to the big city to sell them to raise money. With Ben Kingsley and Mika Lins
18:15 Saint–Ex (1995) – biography of the French adventurer-pilot-writer Saint Exupery who wrote *The Little Prince*. With Miranda Richardson
19:45 Renegade
20:25 Dangerous Intentions (1994) – an abusive husband pursues his wife and daughter to the shelter they are hiding in. With Corbin Bernsen and Donna Mills
22:00 American Yakuza (1995) – an FBI agent is attracted by the exotic world of the Japanese mafia in the US. With Viggo Mortensen and Michael Nouri
23:40 Number One Fan (1994) – when a film star spends the night with a fan, little does he guess that she will not accept it as a one-night stand. With Chad McQueen and Catherine Mary Stewart
1:10 Teamster Boss: the Jackie Presser Story (1992) – The true story of the man who led the most powerful American union after the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa. With Brian Dennehy and Jeff Daniels
3:00 Surviving the Game (1994, 94 mins.) – a destitute man is hired to work at a hunting resort only to discover that he has been set up. With Ice-T, Rutger Hauer and Gary Busey

■ CHILDREN (6)

8:30 Cartoons
8:05 Oscar and Friends
8:15 Herlulis
8:35 Oliver Twist
9:05 The Smurfs
9:35 Ninja Turtles
10:00 The Hot-air Balloon
10:10 Batman
10:40 Twins of Destiny
11:05 Hot-air Balloon
11:15 Viewers' choice comedy
11:50 Hot-air Balloon
12:00 Sweet Valley High
12:20 Hot-air Balloon
12:30 Football: When Dreams Come True
13:00 Bobby's World
13:25 Power Rangers
13:45 Helen and the Boys
14:10 Chiquititas
15:05 Ninja Turtles
15:30 Hot-air Balloon
15:40 Batman
16:05 Twins of Destiny
16:45 Viewers' choice
17:30 Sweet Valley High
18:00 Football: When Dreams Come True (rpt)
18:30 Oliver Twist
19:00 The Smurfs
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:40 Full House
21:10 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Close-Up (1995) – a youth is accused of nine murders and the police fabricate the evidence to convict him. 23:35 Flic Story (French, 1975, 107 mins.) – thriller set in post-war Paris about an ambitious young detective who tries to catch a cunning criminal. With Alain Delon and Jean-Louis Trintignant

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:00 Love Songs of the Miao (rpt)
8:55 Floyd on Italy (rpt)
9:25 Endangered Species (rpt)
10:00 Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro
11:30 Daniel Ezralow: Windows
12:20 A Healthy Body
12:50 Truth or Dairy (rpt)
13:20 A Whale's Tale (rpt)
14:10 Nutrition Special
15:05 E.R., The Real Drama (rpt)
16:05 Defenders of the Wild (rpt)
17:00 Open University: Heroes of Democracy; Mastering the Internet; Made For Mars, Pathfinder
19:05 A Healthy Body
19:40 The Singing Apes of Khao Ya
20:10 Explorers of the Titanic
21:05 Science Times
22:00 Chrome Wheels, part 2
22:50 Defenders of the Wild
23:20 Open University: Celluloid Heroes; Interactions in Science; Greek Fire

■ STAR WORLD (18/15)

6:00 The Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian
6:30 To the Manor Born
7:00 Bergerac
8:00 Oprah Winfrey Show
9:00 Santa Barbara
10:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
10:30 Nanny and the Professor
11:00 To the Manor Born
11:30 The Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian
12:00 Terry Toons
12:30 Small Wonder
13:00 Batman
13:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
14:00 The Simpsons
14:30 The Wonder Years
15:00 Two Point Four Children
15:30 Chet!
16:00 Absolutely Fabulous
16:30 Murder Most Horrid
17:00 Dangerfield
18:00 Santa Barbara
19:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
19:30 The Simpsons
20:00 Two Point Four Children
20:30 Chet!
21:00 Absolutely Fabulous
21:30 Murder Most Horrid
22:00 Dangerfield
23:00 VegaS
00:00 Bergerac
1:00 Aerobics Oz Style
1:30 Terry Toons

■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:30 Asia Today
6:40 World Business
7:30 Window on Europe
8:30 How Buildings Learn: Unreal Estate (rpt)
9:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
10:30 Top Gear (rpt)
11:30 Window on Europe
12:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
13:30 Earth Report: Micro-Credit (rpt)
14:00 The World Today
15:30 Wild World
16:30 The World Today
17:30 The Travel Show
18:30 Hard Talk
19:30 Wild World
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:30 Reporters (rpt)
23:10 World Business
23:30 One Foot in the Past
00:10 Europe Direct
1:00 World News and Business Report
1:15 Asia Today (rpt)

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News through the day
6:15 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report
14:30 Digital Jam
15:15 News & Business Asia
16:30 CNN Newsroom
17:30 World Sport
18:30 World Beat
19:00 Larry King Live
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business
22:30 Q&A with Riz Khan
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
1:30 Moneyline

■ SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6:30 CBS Evening News
7:30 ABC World News
8:00 Sunrise
12:30 ABC Nightline
13:30 Sky World News
18:30 Sky World News
19:00 Live at Five
21:30 Sportsline
22:30 Business Report
23:30 Sky World News
00:00 Prime Time

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Soccer – Irish Tournament
19:00 1998 Xtreme Olympics
19:30 The Survivors
20:00 Candid Camera
20:30 WCW Wrestling
23:15 Game by Invitation

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Equestrianism
10:30 Synchronized Swimming
11:30 Soccer
13:00 Soccer – Eurogoals
14:30 Equestrianism
15:30 All Sports
16:00 Tennis
17:30 Live Basketball – World Championship
19:00 Live Cycling
20:00 Live Tennis
22:00 Cycling
22:45 Boxing (rpt)
23:45 Soccer
1:30 Superbike

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	A Moment in Life Gregory Hines Show		Beverly Hills 90210	Renegade	Family Matters Married with Children Fresh Prince of Bel Air	The Singing Apes of Khao Ya Explorers of the Titanic
20:00	News Talk of the Day	News	Sabrina the Teenage Witch	Dangerous Intentions	Full House	
20:30	Are you Being Served	Focus	Suddenly Susan			Science Times
21:00	News	Summer on the Beach	Suddenly Susan Dreams of Youth		Beverly Hills 90210	
21:30	Summer Jubilee Weekly Lotto Draw Summer Jubilee cont'd		Suddenly Susan	American Yakuza	Close-up	Chrome Wheels
22:00		Basic Training	Seinfeld			
22:30			Ricki Lake			Defenders of the Wild
23:00						

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Saint-Saens: Romance in C major for Violin and Orchestra; Chopin: Fantasie in F minor op 49; Elgar: Chanson de matin and Chanson de nuit op 15; Rachmaninoff: 2 Preludes for Piano 7:07 Mozart: Bass concert aria "Mentre ti lascio" K513; Beethoven: Piano Sonata no 23 op 57 "Appassionata"; Glazunov: Violin Concerto 9:05 Paganini: Violin Concerto no 3; Chopin: Ballade no 2; Verdi: Aria from La forza del destino 9:05 Charpentier: Messe; Couperin: Harpsichord Suite no 14; Schubert: Symphony no 1; Haydn: Piano Trio no 44; Beethoven: Symphony no 2; Poulenc: Songs 12:00 Light Classical – baroque music 13:00 Artist of the Week – Shlomo Mintz, violin. Paganini: from 24 Caprices for solo violin op 1 14:05 Music from Near and Far 15:00 From the Recording Studio – Guy Braunstein, violin, and other artists. Orgad: Ballade for solo violin; Schubert: Movement from String Quartet in C minor; Shostakovich: Violin Concerto no 1 16:00 My Concert 18:00 New CDs – Budehude: Cantata; Mozart: Quintet for Piano and Winds K452; Martinu: Symphony no 6; Prokofiev: 10 pieces from Romeo and Juliet op 75 (Demidenko) 20:05 From Our Concert Halls - Festival of Vocal Music in Abu Ghosh Rossini: Stabat Mater 22:00 Sounds from Around the World

■ RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWestnews

6:00 Morning Drive – Music with David Starck 7:30 English Newspaper Headlines 7:45 Sports Update with Danny Gewirtz 8:08 Lions Trust Financial Update 9:00 Morning Brunch (until 12:00) – '80s-'90s Music with Sharon Wagner 10:00 Mediaworks Hi-Tech Show 12:00 Premium Time – Centurion Insurance 13:00 Windows on the World 13:30 Pick of the Hits with Donna Abraham 15:30 Afternoon Drive (until 18:00) – with Mike Reinis 17:45 Sports Update 18:00 Barak Moore Show – Call in talk radio 18:45 Sports Update 19:00 Classic Rock with Aaron Katzman 20:45 Jerusalem Post Sports – tomorrow's news tonight – with Joe Hoffman and Ori Lewis 21:00 Barbara Diamond – One on One Interviews 22:00 West Rocks – Michal Cohen 1:00 Late Night Music

■ BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 News
6:05 World Business Report
6:15 Sports Roundup
6:30 Insight
6:45 Off the Shelf: 'Once Upon A Time' By Nadine Gordimer
7:00 The World Today
7:30 Outlook
7:45 Take Five
8:00 The World Today
8:30 Discovery
9:00 News
9:15 Insight
9:30 About Face
10:00 News
10:15 Off the Shelf: Anna Karenina, part 2
10:30 Welcome To My World
10:45 The Lab
11:00 News
11:10 Pause For Thought
11:15 Musical of the Week
12:00 News
12:05 World Business Report
12:15 Stories From The Afterlife
12:30 Looking at Literature: Much Ado About Nothing
12:45 Sports Roundup
13:00 Newsdesk
13:30 On Screen
14:00 Newsdesk
14:30 About Face
15:00 News
15:05 World Business Report
15:15 Britain Today
15:30 Health Matters
15:45 Sports Roundup
16:00 Newshour
17:00 News
17:05 Outlook
17:30 Multitrack: Hit List
18:00 News
18:05 Sports Roundup
18:15 Westway
18:30 The Greenfield Collection
19:00 Europe Today
19:30 World Business Report
19:45 Britain Today
20:00 News
20:15 Insight
20:30 Seeing Stars
20:45 Sports Roundup
21:00 Newsdesk
21:30 Proms '98
22:25 Pause For Thought
22:30 Magamix
23:00 Newshour
00:00 News

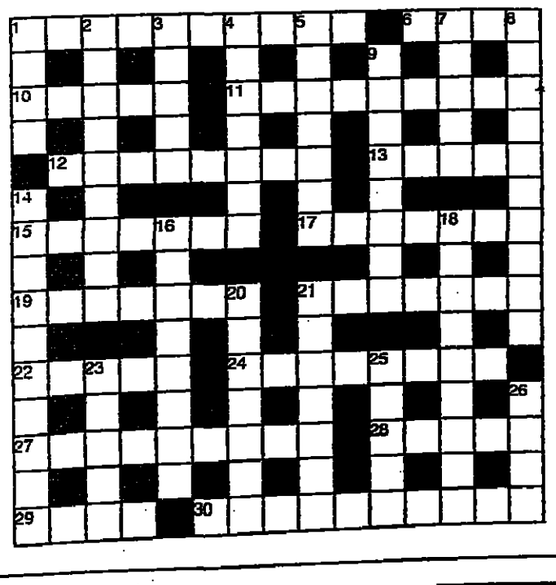
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 A racket combated with European money (10)
6 The city needs water (4)
10 In consequence the cover must be substantial (5)
11 Learns to take exercise just to oblige (9)
12 Flourish as a result of high-fibre food (8)
13 Given directions, expected to invest (5)
15 A guy might well get attached to this! (4-3)
17 The beak's platform (7)
19 Some youngsters loathe a trendy form of entertainment (7)
21 Ruthless people are nowadays first on board (7)
22 A bird of river and lake (5)
24 He aims high, idle as it may appear (8)
27 Carpeting with cross laid in a cathedral (9)
28 Lithe soldier in his cups? (5)
29 The American should have some pull! (4)
30 Changed the positioning back, then phoned the editor (10)

DOWN

1 Found anything but honourable (4)
2 Indulgence shown towards poor cleaner (9)
3 Left port with cargo (5)
4 Foreign aristocrat, a top man, taking a dip (7)
5 The cowboy rushed about pursued by a girl (7)
7 A minor prize (5)
8 Those bringing up the rear are least helpful (10)
9 Under pressure to give up sweets (8)
14 At a standstill, try it on as a moving ploy (10)
16 Let up maybe before a worker could get cantankerous (8)
18 About a quarter feel nettled without one making a stand (9)
20 English and Greek characters let off writing (7)
21 One would drive a bullock with obvious hesitation (7)
23 A medico in error—a simple fellow (5)
25 Beast has overturned everything to some degree (5)
26 Crazy about Oriental drink (4)



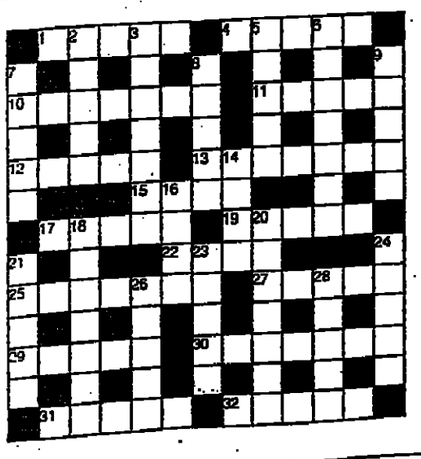
SOLUTIONS

GAZPACHO L N E
N U O TRAMLING
CART N I N L G
T ANTECHAMBERS
H S R G R H
DETONATE IDEATE
M C I N A L
SACK MAGGOT TALL
I I I H E
XOANON TYPANAL
S I I E L A
CONTEMPORARY N
O O U U D SPIT
REDEEMED O E N
E S S SEMERAGE

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Chant, 4 Cellar, 9 Upgrade, 10 Inter, 11 Sort, 12 Pierrot, 13 Two, 14 Tier, 16 Cell, 18 Hue, 20 Foresee, 21 Cart, 24 Omega, 25 Venture, 26 Driest, 27 Holds.

DOWN: 1 Course, 2 Anger, 3 Tear, 5 Evidence, 6 Lateral, 7 Rarity, 8 Tempo, 13 Trespass, 15 Israeli, 17 Afford, 18 Heave, 19 Stress, 22 Usual, 23 Inch.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Passageway (5)
4 French impressionist (5)
10 Very old (7)
11 Artist's stand (5)
12 Call on (5)
13 Most protracted (7)
15 Portent (4)
17 Alarm (5)
19 Enumerate (5)
22 Require (4)
25 Waterfall (7)
27 Reside (5)
29 Slightest (5)
30 Erin (7)
31 Decorate (5)
32 Aver (5)

DOWN

2 Hair (5)
3 Builder (7)
5 Sea (5)
6 Oriental (7)
7 Bisect (5)
8 Purloined (5)
9 Fabric (5)
14 At one time (4)
16 Repair (4)
18 Sweet sauce (7)
20 Left-over (7)
21 Berate (5)
23 Weird (5)
24 Glasgow's river (5)
26 Thespian (5)
28 Precise (5)

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE The Last Action Hero 5 • Welcome to Sarajevo 7:30 • Deconstructing Harry=La Traversee de Paris 9:30 G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Grease 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Mouse Hunt 11:30, 2, 4:45 • The Patriot 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Big Lebowski 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Warriors of Virtue=The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 2 • City of Angels=High Art 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45 • The Real Blonde 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10
JERUSALEM THEATER On Connait La chanson 7 =The Spanish Prisoner 9:30 • The King of Masks 7, 9:30 RAV CHEN 1-7 ☎ 5792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m., 5, 8:4 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • The Wedding Singer 11 a.m., 5 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL ☎ 5700868 As Good As It Gets 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m. • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 SMADAR ☎ 5618168 Kundun 5 • He Got Game 7:30, 10
TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF Spanish Prisoner=The Real Blonde 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • On connait la chanson 1, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Warriors of Virtue 11, 3:15 GAT ☎ 6967888 The Horse Whisperer 3:15, 6:30, 9:45 GLOBUS ☎ 6081130/1 Grease 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30 • City of Angels 7:30, 10 • Superboy=The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30 • The Big Lebowski=Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Patriot 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • High Art 7:30, 10 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. HOD 1-4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Red Corner=Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Live Flesh 5, 7:30, 10 • Grease 5, 7:30 • Trepidation 10 LEV ☎ 5288288 He Got Game 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Kundun 11:30 a.m., 5, 10 • Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 7, 8:45 • Sweet Hereafter 11:30 a.m., 7:30, 10 • Go Now Fri. 12 noon; Sat. 11:45 a.m.; Thu. Sun-Wed. 2:30, 7:30 • Pillow Book 5 • Welcome to the Doll House 2, 4:15 • LEV AVIV ☎ 6417148 He Got Game 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Kundun 2:30, 7:15, 10 • Welcome to the Doll House 11:15, 2:30, 5, 7:30 • Sweet Hereafter 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 10 • Brassed Off 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 • Carla's Song 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 G.G. PE'ER ☎ 5442141 City of Angels =High Art 7:30, 10 • Mouse Hunt . 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-CHEN ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 • As Good As It Gets 2, 4:30, 7:15 9:45 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 2:30, 5 • Rubber 11 a.m. • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 RAV-OR 1-5 ☎ 5102674 Opera House Jackie Brown 1:15, 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Great Expectations=The Full Monty=Parent Trap 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Titanic 2, 5:15, 9 TEL AVIV MUSEUM The Hanging Garden 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMATHEQUE Mars Attacks 7 • Shichinin No Samurai 9:30 MORIAH ☎ 8242477 Kundun 7:15 • On connait la chanson 7:15, 9:30 • Stranger Among Gypsies 7:30, 9:30 • Live Flesh 9:30 ORI ☎ 8500056 The Patriot 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Grease 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • City of Angels 7:15, 10 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 10 • The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 4:45 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Real Blonde 7:15, 10 Warriors of Virtue 11:30 a.m. • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 PANORAMA ☎ 8382020 Spanish Prisoner 9:30; • City of Angels 7:30, 9:45 • Mouse Hunt 11 a.m., 5, 7:15 • The Magic Sword 11 a.m., 4:45, 6:30 • Lethal Weapon IV 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 RAV-CHEN ☎ 8500055 As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Armageddon 4, 6:45, 9:45 • Wild Things 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Lost In Space 4:15, 7, 9:30 RAV-GAT 1-2 ☎ 8674311 Primary Colors 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 RAV-MOR 1-7 ☎ 8416888 Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:15, 9:30 • Armageddon 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 6:45, 9:45 • Titanic 11 a.m. • The Horse Whisperer 6, 9:15 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Mr. Magoo 11 a.m., 5 • Wild Things 7:15, 9:30 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7, 9:30 RAV-OR 1-3 ☎ 8246553 The Horse Whisperer 5 9:30 • Mulan=Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:30 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 1:30, 5, 7, 9:30
ARAD
STAR ☎ 9950904 Lost In Space 11:30 a.m., 7:45, 10:15 • Good Will Hunting 7:30, 10 • Warriors of Virtue 5:30 • Kissing A Fool 10 • Anastasia 11:30 a.m., 5 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m., 5:30, 7:30
ARIEL
Red Corner 9
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8847202 City of Angels =The Patriot 7:30, 10 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m. • The Magic Sword =Superboy *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Grease 7:30, 10 • The Borrowers . 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 ORI ☎ 8568073 Good Will Hunting =Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Titanic 5, 8:45 RAV CHEN ☎ 8661120 The Horse Whisperer . 9:45 • As Good As It Gets 7:15, 9:45 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 5 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 City of Angels =Grease=The Patriot 7:30, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 5 • Warriors of Virtue • 11:30 a.m. • The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 RAV CHEN ☎ 6711221 Good Will Hunting 7:15, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • The Wedding Singer=Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 5 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 9:45
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 The Wedding Singer 9:45 • Armageddon 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Mouse Hunt 11 a.m. • City of Angels 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45 • Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 1, 5 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45 • Warriors of Virtue 5 • Lethal Weapon IV • The Borrowers 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7:30 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL ☎ 6440771 G.G. ORI ☎ 6103111 Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • City of Angels=The Patriot 7:30, 10 • Mouse Hunt=Superboy=The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎ 6235278 The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 9:45 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30 • Lost In Space 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15 • Pipi Longstocking =Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 5 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
EILAT
GIL ☎ 6340182 Mouse Hunt 5 • City of Angels 7:30, 10 • The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m. • Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 5 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎ 6343555 Armageddon=He Got Game 5, 7:15, 10 • The Magic Sword 11 a.m., 5 • Mulan 11 a.m., 4:15, 6 • Lethal Weapon IV 7:30, 10 • Lost in Space 11 a.m., 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11 a.m., 5
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎ 6902666 The Horse Whisperer 6, 9:15 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 5, 7:30, 10:15
DANIEL ☎ 9544044 The Horse Whisperer 10 • Warriors of Virtue 1:15 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 5, 7:30 STAR ☎ 9589068 Mouse Hunt 11 a.m., 3:30 • Armageddon 7, 10 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 3:45, 5:30, 7:30 • Pipi Longstocking . 11 a.m., 4, 5:45 • Lost In Space 5:15, 7:30, 10 • Primary Colors 10
HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 Mouse Hunt 4:30 • Armageddon 7, 10 • The Horse Whisperer 6:30, 9:45 • Superboy =Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lost In Space 10 • The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m. • Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30
HOLON
STAR As Good As It Gets 7:30, 10 • Titanic 11 a.m., 5, 9 • Anastasia *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 5 • Wild Things 7:30, 10 • Warriors of Virtue 11:30 a.m., 5 • Lost In Space 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 10
KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎ 9882521 Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Mulan=Pipi Longstocking 11 a.m., 5 • Lost in Space 7, 9:30 • Parent Trap 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎ 7677370 Armageddon 7, 10 • The Patriot 7:30 • Mouse Hunt 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, • City of Angels 10 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* =The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • Pipi Longstocking • The Borrowers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL Lethal Weapon IV=Kissing A Fool=Grease 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Magic Sword *(Hebrew dialogue)* 11 a.m., 4:30, 7 • Mouse Hunt 11 a.m., 4:30 • City of Angels=Good Will Hunting 7, 9:30 • Deep Impact 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Superboy 11 a.m., 6:30, 7 • As Good As It Gets 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Patriot 11 a.m., 4:30, 9:30 • The Borrowers 11 a.m., 7, 9:30, 12 midnight; 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30
KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. GIL ☎ 6905080 Armageddon =The Patriot=Leth

Inside

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Basketball roundup Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Expos top Padres

MONTREAL (AP) – Dustin Hermanson took a shutout into the ninth and Vladimir Guerrero hit a two-run, first-inning homer yesterday to lead the Montreal Expos over the San Diego Padres 6-1.

Hermanson (9-9) matched his season high with eight strikeouts and walked four, allowing four hits in 8 2/3 innings. With two outs in the ninth, Greg Myers hit an RBI single, and Steve Kline came in for the final out.

Tony Gwynn went 2-for-3 with a walk, raising his hits total to 2,901 and his average to .324. He is 16-for-30 (.533) in his last seven games.

Guerrero, selected NL player of July, went 1-for-2 and was intentionally walked twice. He was 9-for-15 (.600) in the four-game series with nine RBIs, and is hitting .420 (42-for-100) with 12 homers and 33 RBIs since the All-Star break.

Giants 6, Phillies 1

Danny Darwin won for the first time in nine starts since July 8 and Barry Bonds drove in two runs as visiting San Francisco completed a four-game sweep.

Darwin (7-9), who had lost six consecutive decisions, allowed four hits in five shutout innings, striking out three and walking three. He stranded five runners in scoring position.

Bonds, ejected from Sunday's game for fighting with reliever Ricky Bottalico, went 1-for-3 and finished the series 7-for-14 with eight RBIs. He popped up on his first pitch from Bottalico in the ninth.





PUMPED, PUMMELED – The US's Andre Agassi (l) celebrates after defeating Briton Tim Henman on Sunday to win the Mercedes Cup. (Reuters)

The Agassi and the Ecstasy

Red-hot former No. 1 beats Henman to jump to No. 11 in ATP ranking

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Andre Agassi firmly established himself as the hottest player on the ATP Tour this summer hardcourt season by capturing his second title in as many weeks on Sunday.

Agassi, seeded fifth, easily handled second-seeded rising British star Tim Henman 6-4, 6-4 in 80 minutes to add the Mercedes Cup title to the one he claimed last week in Washington.

"I'm playing so well, it's nice to be standing here the last one," said Agassi, who collected $45,000 after his 11th consecutive straight-set win.

"I'm having a blast ... being on top," joked the former world No. 1, who clearly has his game back on track after falling off the rankings radar with a miserable 1997 season. He moved up to 11th in the world yesterday. His lowest was 141 last year.

Wimbledon semifinalist Henman did not play as well as he had in reaching the final and never produced the game that could hurt the former Wimbledon champion.

"I wasn't quite able to make things happen against Andre," said Henman, who often appeared tentative in the less than scintillating contest that marked the first meeting between the two.

"To beat someone like Andre, you've got to play to the top of your game and that never happened for me today," Henman said. "I never was able to string together continuously high-level tennis.

"But to make the final is a confidence builder," said the 23-year-old Briton. "He's a worthy champion."

Agassi used his ferocious baseline artillery to keep Henman in the back court as much as possible and played well on big points even when the second seed battled his way to the net.

Agassi served out the match with a love game, ending it by ripping a backhand pass up the line.

"I'm hitting the ball so well ... my hard work is paying off."

And with the US Open prize just a few weeks down the road, Agassi is riding a wave of confidence. "I think I can realistically go into the Open with the expectation of being there the final weekend."

Davenport holds off Venus

Top seed Lindsay Davenport roared back from an 0-3 third-set deficit in searing heat to claim a hard-fought victory over third seed Venus Williams in the final of the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford University.

In a seesaw battle between two towering, overpowering players, Davenport bore down late in the match to pull out a 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 victory in two hours and 20 minutes.

The third-ranked Davenport, who beat Steffi Graf in the semifinals, was brimming with confidence after her victory in the all-American final and declared herself ready to make a run at the world No. 1 ranking.

"I've been very consistent this year and maybe I should have won a few more tournaments, but if I play like I did this week, I feel my chance at number one is pretty good," said Davenport, who has won three of her 15 career titles in her home state of California.

"Hard courts are what I grew up on," said Davenport, who has a less-than-friendly history with Williams.

Last year, Davenport publicly criticized the teenager's attitude, claiming Williams ignored a greeting and turned away from her. Williams denied the snub at the time and Davenport said their relationship has improved.

"Venus is a lot more friendly now," said Davenport, who leads their rivalry 4-1. "She was trying to be so intimidating back then, but she has eased up on it now."

Davenport, 22, backed up her seeding in the 35°C heat with explosive crosscourt returns and huge serves down the tee to frustrate her 18-year-old opponent, who was coming off an explosive victory of her own over Monica Seles.

Williams came out firing but squandered three break points in the second game, and it was Davenport who came up with the critical first service break to go up 4-3.

The 6-foot-3 Davenport ended the first set with her money shot, a blistering crosscourt forehand, and claimed an early break in the second when the 6-foot-2 Williams double faulted in the third game.

But Williams's serve is fast becoming one of the most dangerous weapons on the WTA Tour.

After confounding Seles with a blazing delivery on Saturday, Williams smoked 15 aces against Davenport – previously unheard of in women's tennis. But she also had control problems, landing just 50 percent of her first serves in play and committing nine double faults.

Williams also has some physical difficulties, calling for the trainer while trailing at 1-2 and again at 3-4 for leg problems.

"She's taken time-outs lots of times before in the past," Daveport said. "The second one was a little frustrating."

Williams came back and immediately broke Davenport to reach 4-4 and took the second set with another break, when the top seed dumped three shots into the net.

The speedy third seed rode that momentum to a 3-0 lead in the final set, but Davenport battled back, winning six of the last seven games and closing it out with a backhand missile down the line.

"I was a little down after the second set," Davenport admitted. "I just started firing up. When I got the first break, I knew I was back in the match."

The Top 20

1. Pete Sampras (US) 3,825 points
2. Marcelo Rios (Chile) 3,719
3. Petr Korda (Czech Republic) 3,195
4. Carlos Moya (Spain) 2,902
5. Patrick Rafter (Australia)2,878
6. Greg Rusedski (Britain) 2,705
7. Jonas Bjorkman (Sweden) 2,563
8. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 2,442
9. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 2,368
10. Alex Corretja (Spain) 2,302
11. Andre Agassi (US) 2,209
12. Tim Henman (Britain) 2,163
13. Albert Costa (Spain) 2,128
14. Karol Kucera (Slovakia) 2,127
15. Alberto Berasategui (Spain) 1,900
16. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)1,803
17. Felix Mantilla (Spain)1,776
18. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden) 1,737
19. Cedric Pioline (France) 1,712
20. Michael Chang (US) 1,663

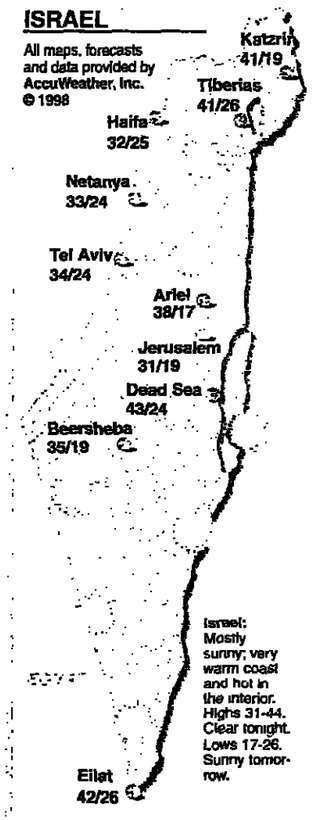
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THE WEATHER

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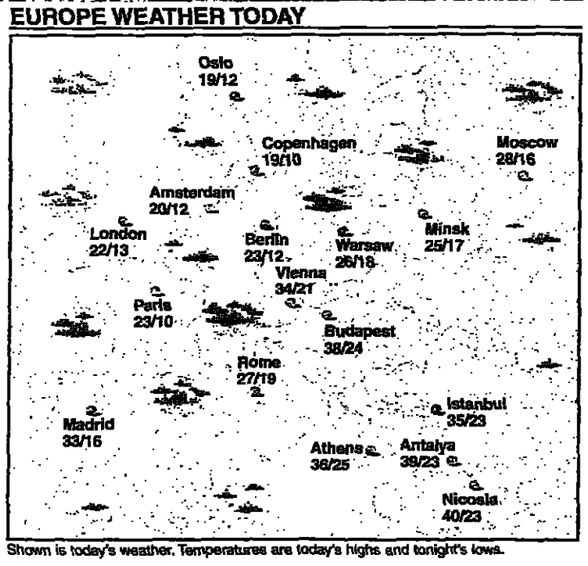
ISRAEL

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Israel: Mostly sunny; very warm coast and hot in the interior. Highs 31-44. Clear tonight. Lows 17-26. Sunny tomorrow.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High	Today Low/W	Wednesday High	Wednesday Low/W	Thursday High	Thursday Low/W	Friday High	Friday Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Ariel	38/100	17/62/s	38/100	18/64/s	38/100	18/64/pc	40/104	19/66/pc
Beersheba	35/95	19/66/s	35/95	20/68/s	36/97	20/68/pc	37/98	21/70/pc
Dead Sea	43/109	24/75/s	44/111	27/80/s	43/109	27/80/pc	45/113	26/79/pc
Eilat	42/107	26/79/s	42/107	25/77/s	44/111	25/77/pc	45/113	25/77/pc
Haifa	32/89	25/77/s	32/89	25/77/s	33/91	25/77/pc	33/91	26/79/pc
Jerusalem	31/88	19/66/s	31/88	18/64/s	32/89	19/64/pc	33/91	19/66/pc
Katzrin	41/106	19/66/s	41/106	19/66/s	42/107	19/66/pc	43/109	20/68/pc
Netanya	33/91	24/75/s	33/91	23/73/s	33/91	23/73/pc	34/93	24/75/pc
Tel Aviv	34/93	24/75/s	35/95	24/75/s	34/93	25/77/pc	34/93	25/77/pc
Tiberias	41/106	26/79/s	41/106	27/80/s	41/106	26/79/pc	43/109	26/79/pc

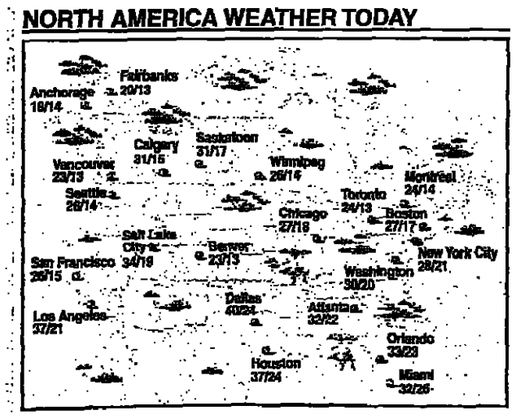
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f/cs

Full Aug 8 | Last Aug 14 | New Aug 22 | First Aug 30

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High	Today Low/W	Wednesday High	Wednesday Low/W	Thursday High	Thursday Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Amsterdam	20/68	12/53/s	21/70	14/57/pc	24/75	14/57/s
Beijing	34/93	25/77/pc	33/91	25/77/pc	34/93	26/79/s
Berlin	23/73	12/53/c	21/70	13/55/pc	24/75	16/61/s
Brussels	22/71	11/52/pc	22/71	13/55/s	26/79	16/61/s
Cairo	38/100	24/75/s	40/104	24/75/s	36/97	23/73/pc
Chicago	27/80	16/64/s	26/79	17/62/t	27/80	18/64/t
Frankfurt	24/75	11/52/c	21/70	12/53/pc	24/75	15/59/s
Hong Kong	32/89	26/79/pc	30/86	26/79/r	31/88	26/79/r
Johannesburg	22/71	6/43/s	24/75	7/44/s	24/75	9/48/pc
London	22/71	13/55/s	23/73	15/59/s	26/79	16/61/s
Los Angeles	37/98	21/70/s	34/93	19/66/pc	33/91	18/64/pc
Madrid	33/91	16/61/s	34/93	17/62/s	37/98	21/70/pc
Mexico City	27/80	14/57/c	23/73	14/57/c	25/77	14/57/s
Montreal	24/75	14/57/s	25/77	16/61/pc	28/79	17/62/pc
Moscow	29/82	16/61/r	26/79	17/62/pc	26/79	16/61/pc
New York	28/82	21/70/pc	28/82	21/70/pc	28/82	22/71/pc
Paris	23/73	10/50/pc	23/73	13/55/s	27/80	15/61/pc
Prague	26/79	14/57/sh	23/73	11/52/pc	26/79	15/59/s
Rio de Janeiro	26/79	20/68/c	27/80	19/66/pc	24/75	17/62/sh
Rome	27/80	19/66/sh	27/80	20/68/sh	29/84	19/66/sh
Sydney	21/70	15/59/c	18/64	17/62/r	21/70	12/53/sf
Tokyo	31/88	26/79/r	31/88	27/80/sh	31/88	26/79/c
Toronto	24/75	13/55/pc	26/79	14/57/sh	27/80	16/61/t
Vienna	34/93	21/70/pc	23/73	14/57/r	27/80	16/64/pc
Warsaw	26/79	16/64/sh	21/70	11/52/sh	23/73	14/57/s
Washington	30/86	20/68/pc	31/88	21/70/c	31/88	22/71/c
Zurich	24/75	16/61/sh	23/73	13/55/pc	27/80	18/64/pc

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



Disgraced by drug scandal, cycling ponders its future

PARIS (AP) – Flat tire or broken frame? The scandal-plagued Tour de France is over. Now the sport of cycling is coming to terms with the task of rebuilding its tattered image.

Other sports, like track and swimming, have been rocked by drug revelations. But none depends so heavily on a single event for its global reputation: for many, the Tour de France IS cycling.

Right now, the sport is in a state of shock. The question is: Can it bounce back?

"In the short term, we will suffer badly from this crisis and our image will suffer," says Daniel Baal, vice president of the International Cycling Union (UCI), the sport's governing body. "But we can rebound positively. The sport is strong enough."



Marco Pantani is embraced by his sister after Tour de France win. (Reuters)

Aware that the sponsors bankrolling cycling could turn their backs on the sport, governing federations are pledging to redouble their efforts to stamp out the use of illegal substances.

They hope that now that the problem is public, it will be easier to tackle.

But at the same time, cycling officials recognize that eradicating doping is virtually impossible. Drugs like EPO, which increases oxygen to red blood cells, can't be detected, and new substances are being developed faster than ever.

Organizers insist there is no thought of canceling next year's race, or even making any major changes for the moment.

They reject suggestions that cyclists need to use illegal substances because the course is too grueling.

"The tour will continue as normal," said John Lelangue, spokesman for the Tour. I've heard the cyclists say that if anything, some of the stages are too easy."

But the Tour's travails have already sparked wider debate, with International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch calling for a reduction in the number of banned substances in sports, and proposing an international conference to seek new ways of tackling the problem.

Cycling is already as thorough as any other sport in testing competitors – it was the first to introduce blood tests, for instance. "Drug controls in cycling are already stronger than for any other sport. That's the worrying thing," said Alan Rushton, managing director of Sport For TV, which organized the Irish leg of the 1998 Tour de France.

Tour win raises Italian spirits

ROME (Reuters) – Italians, starved of a Tour de France winner for 33 years and still coming to grips with the national soccer team's poor showing at the World Cup, found a new sporting hero in Marco Pantani yesterday.

Despite producing many of the world's top cyclists, Italy had given the Tour de France only five winners before Pantani sealed his victory on the Champs Elysees on Sunday.

More painfully, they had not won the world's greatest cycle race since 1965, when Felice Gimondi denied French hero Jacques Anquetil what would have been a fifth consecutive Tour victory.

"Marc de Triomphe" proclaimed the headline in the best selling sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*, which dedicated its front page to a huge color photograph of a smiling Pantani, his arm held aloft by Gimondi on the Paris podium.

La Reppublica hailed Pantani's victory as a triumph for the swashbuckling "old school" of cycling, where riders are prepared to go it alone in the mountains rather than gain bonus points and valuable seconds in the sprints and time trials.

The paper placed Pantani up there with the nation's other sporting heroes – dating from boxer Nino Benvenuti in the 1960s to sprinter Pietro Mennea in the 1970s to World Cup striker Paolo Rossi in 1982 to alpine skier Alberto Tomba in the early 1990s.

Mac. TA's grand soccer plans

By OFER RONEN-ABELS and ORI LEWIS

Maccabi Tel Aviv made a grand entrance into the new soccer season yesterday when they announced their plans for the coming campaign at a lavish presentation to the media. The club presented an increased budget for the new season (from NIS 16 million to NIS 22m) as the object becomes to raise the standard of management and "product" for the supporters.

Former captain, Nir Klinger, who retired as a player last season, will take up a position as assistant to coach Avraham Grant, while giant Russian goalkeeper Alexander Obarov will double as goalkeeping coach as well as continue to be the No. 2 'keeper behind the national team's Rafi Cohen.

Hercikowicz said he expected a better showing from his team this season after two very mediocre campaigns where the club's sometimes treacherous performances saw them languish in the relegation zone.

New league setup confirmed

After many weeks of bickering and recrimination, the new soccer league setup was finally confirmed yesterday, as the IFA and the Sportoto agreed to a compromise deal which will see fewer clubs contest the elite leagues. The new setup will eventually see two 12-team divisions in a "Premier" and a "National" league in the 2000-2001 seasons.

The changes call for three teams to be relegated from the current National League this and next season and at the same time only one club to be promoted in each season.

The current Second Division will eventually be split in two with eight teams being "relegated" while the top half of the league will form the new "National League" in the 2000-01 season.

هكذا في الاصل